

GOLD



THE PHANTOM

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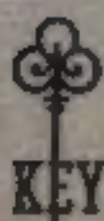
# THE PHANTOM

by LEE FALK



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A series of jungle mysteries lead to the cave of the Little People!



## KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

This is one of a series of informative features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

# WILD ANIMALS of AFRICA

NUMBER 1

## *The CROCODILE*

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By weight, the crocodile is the largest reptile in the world. The Nile crocodile often weighs a ton and measures 25 ft. in length.



With only its nostrils, eyes and back showing, the crocodile resembles a floating log as it lies in ambush for its unwary prey.



When swimming, crocodiles fold their limbs and propel themselves by powerful strokes of the tail. Some are reputed man-eaters.

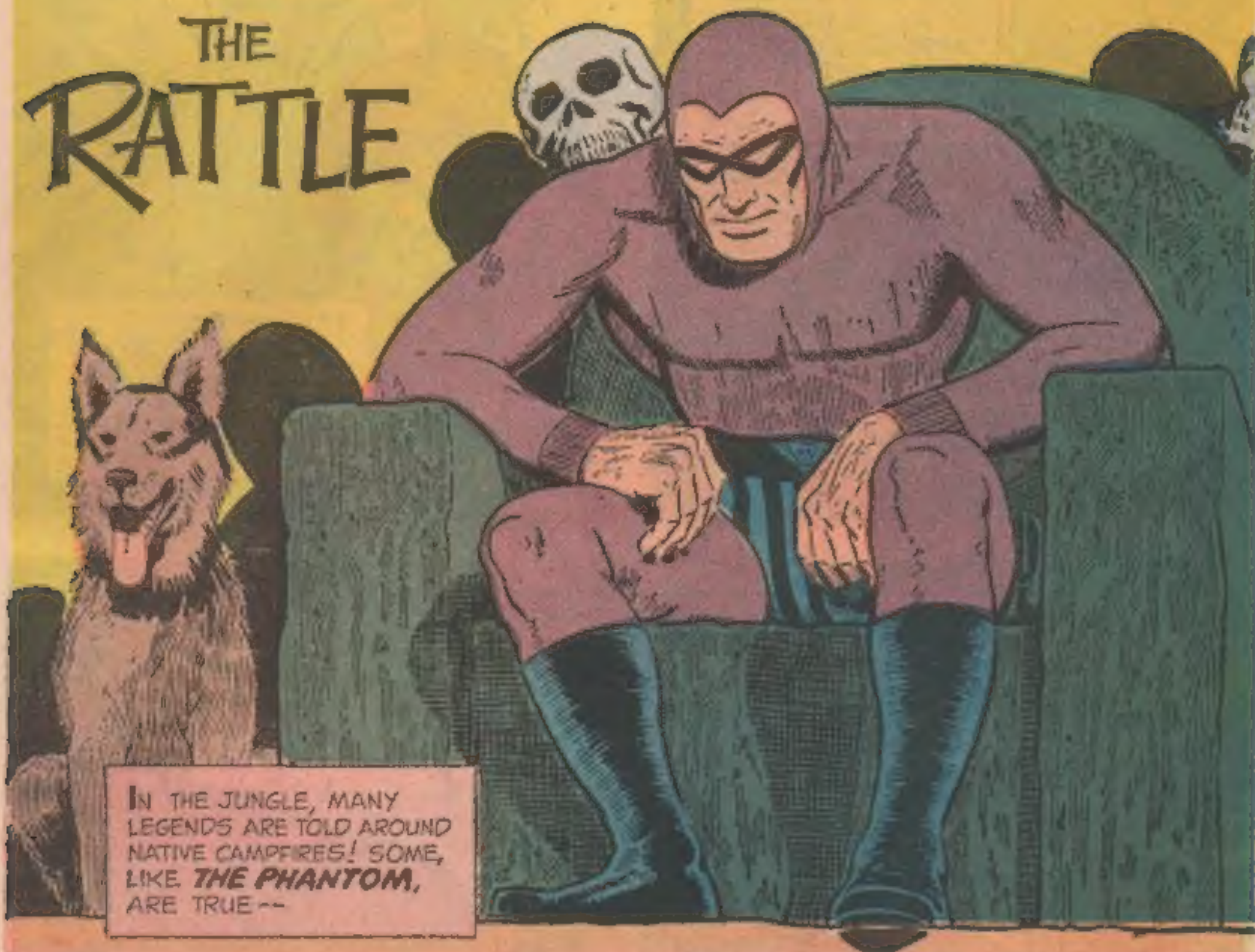


Crocodiles lay their eggs in a sandbank. After being hatched by the sun, the young are guided into the water by their mothers.



While sunning himself on the riverbank, the crocodile will open its jaws and permit the Egyptian plover to peck leeches from its gums.

# The Phantom THE RATTLE



IN THE JUNGLE, MANY LEGENDS ARE TOLD AROUND NATIVE CAMPFIRES! SOME, LIKE **THE PHANTOM**, ARE TRUE --

... SOME MAY NOT BE TRUE, LIKE THE GREAT BIRD OF GANDOR, WHO COMES EVERY CENTURY TO CARRY OFF A WHOLE VILLAGE!



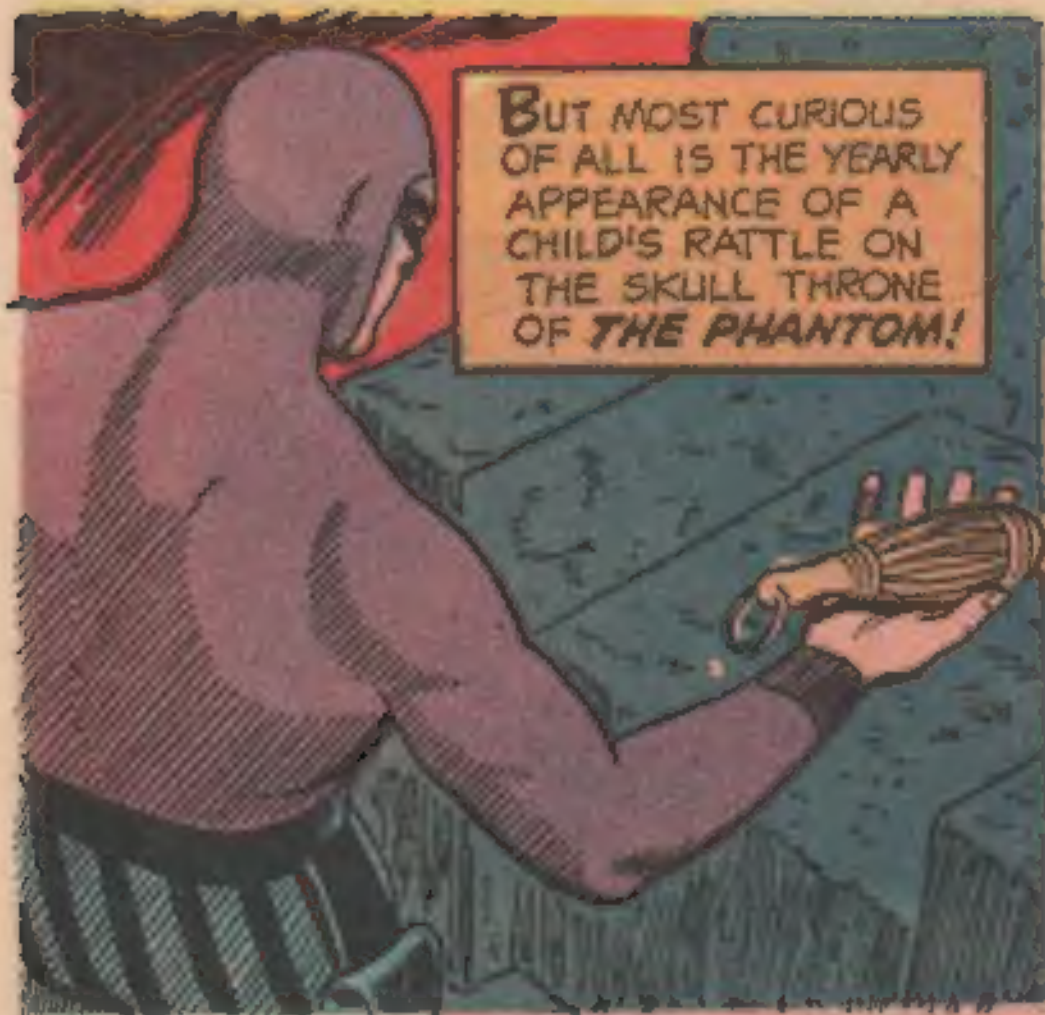
THE PHANTOM #2 - 6211

ONE OF THE MOST PERSISTENT LEGENDS IS OF **LITTLE PEOPLE** SAID TO LIVE IN THE JUNGLE!



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BUT MOST CURIOUS  
OF ALL IS THE YEARLY  
APPEARANCE OF A  
CHILD'S RATTLE ON  
THE SKULL THRONE  
OF *THE PHANTOM*!



IT APPEARED EVERY  
YEAR WHEN *HIS*  
FATHER WAS *PHANTOM*  
--AND HIS FATHER  
BEFORE HIM! NONE  
KNEW THE REASON.



ALTHOUGH *THE PHANTOM'S* ANCESTORS TRIED EVERY-  
THING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY, THEY NEVER LEARNED  
*WHO* BROUGHT THE RATTLE --- OR *WHY*...



THE RATTLE ISN'T  
THE JUNGLE'S  
ONLY MYSTERY!

MY JEWELLED  
CROWN...GONE!

BUT NO ONE  
COULD HAVE  
ENTERED  
HERE!



AND IT'S UP TO *THE PHANTOM* TO  
SOLVE BOTH.

THE LLONGO CHIEF  
ASKS YOU TO COME  
TO HIS VILLAGE!

IT IS  
URGENT!

LATER, AT THE LLONGO VILLAGE...

NO WAY IN  
OR OUT,  
EXCEPT  
THROUGH  
THAT HOLE!

ONLY  
A RAT  
COULD  
GET  
THROUGH  
THERE!

COULD A RAT  
CARRY THE CROWN  
THROUGH THAT HOLE?

HARDLY! I  
SEE **NO WAY**  
IT COULD HAVE  
BEEN DONE...

...BUT  
IT WAS!

IN THE NEARBY RICE FIELDS, STILL AN-  
OTHER MYSTERY!

A HORNED  
TIGER!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, **THE PHANTOM**  
RETURNS FROM THE NATIVE VILLAGE.

WITH A  
ROAR THAT  
CAN BE  
HEARD  
FOR  
MILES...

...THE GREAT  
BEAST LEAPS.



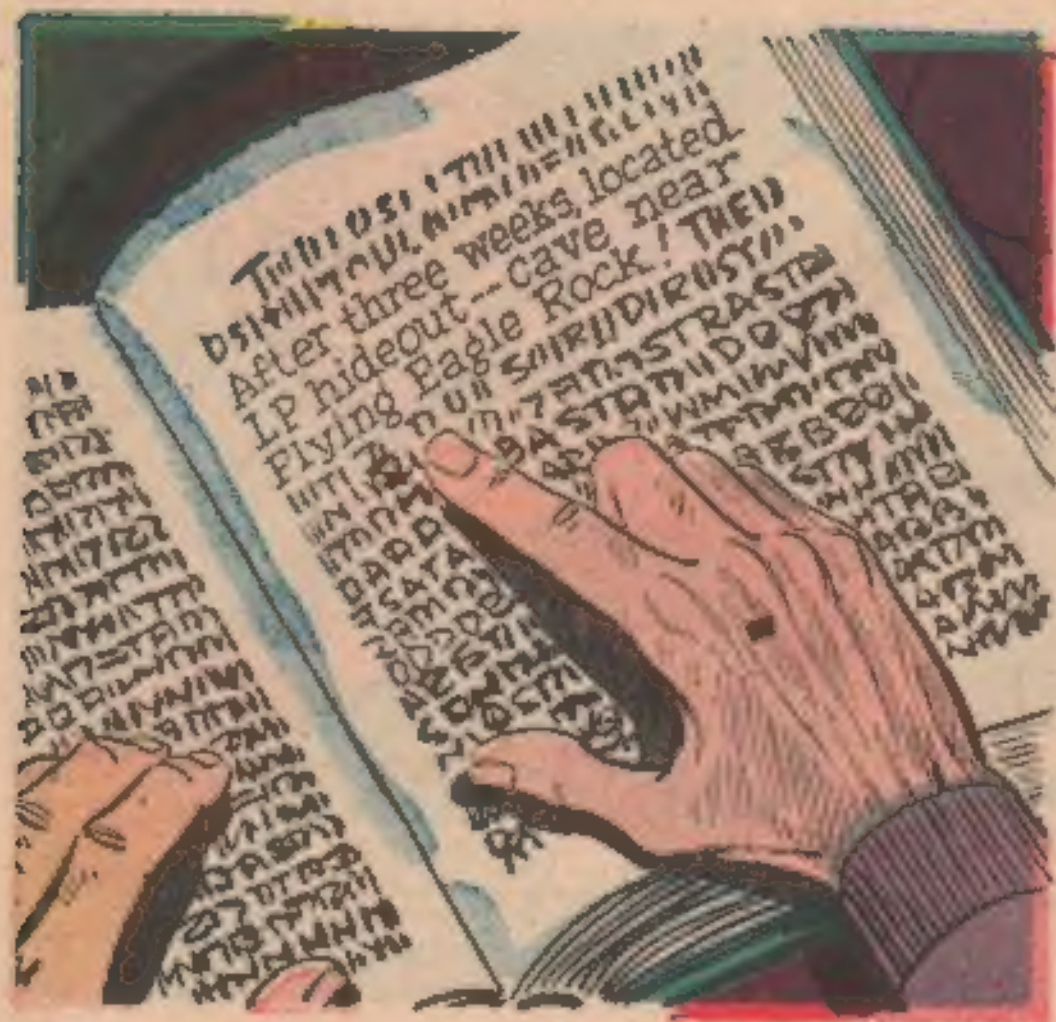
A BIG ONE!-- I'LL BE DARNED, HE HAS A HORN OF SOME KIND!



THE HORN IS MADE OF METAL. IT LOOKS LIKE A TINY ARROW!



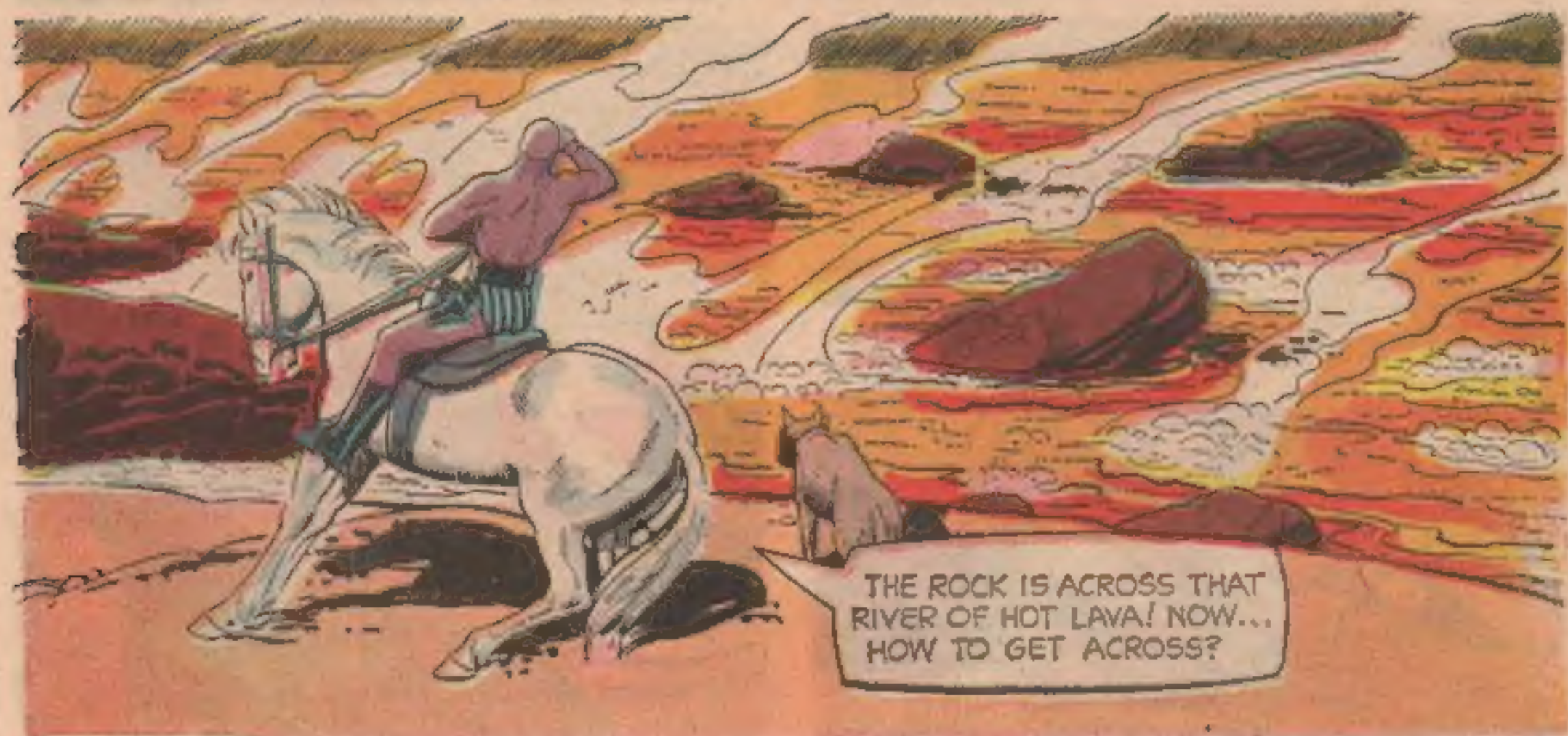
LATER *THE PHANTOM* STUDIES THE FOUR-CENTURIES-OLD PHANTOM CHRONICLES.

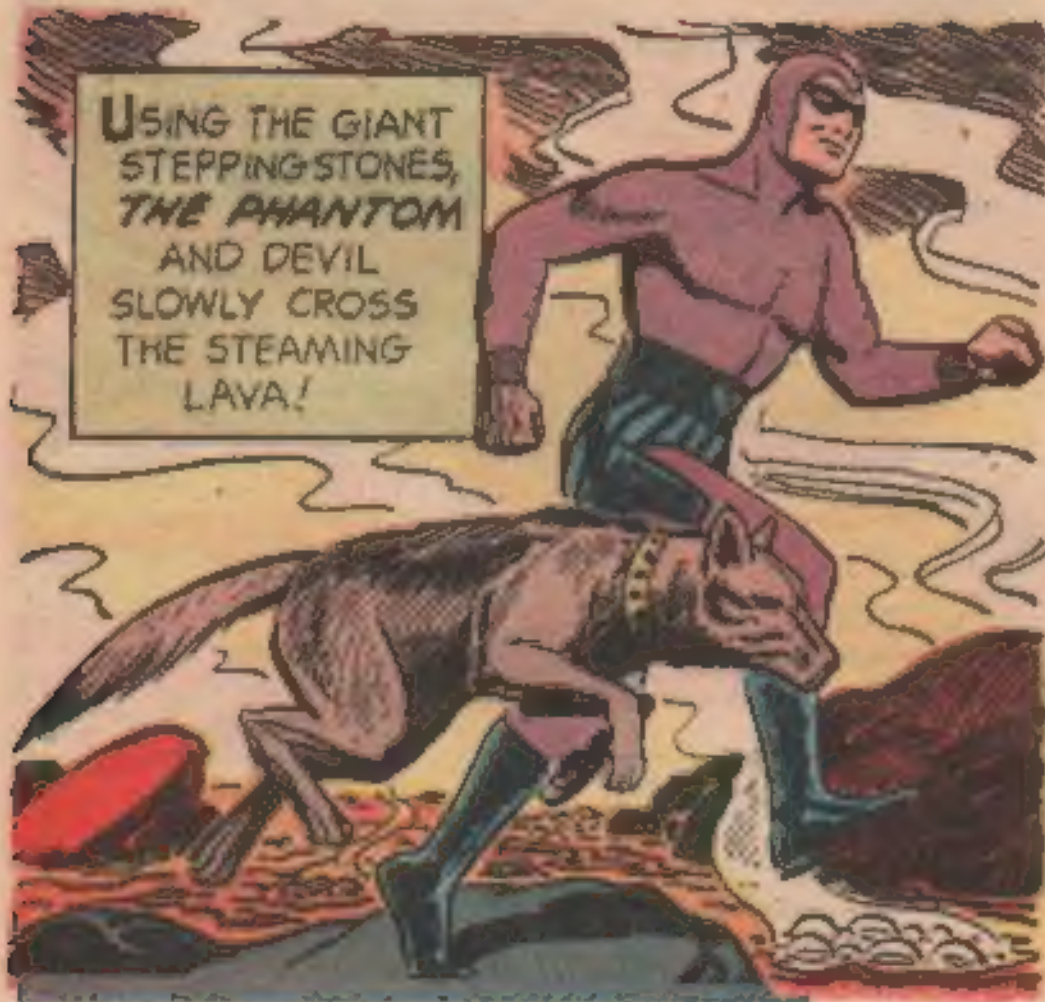
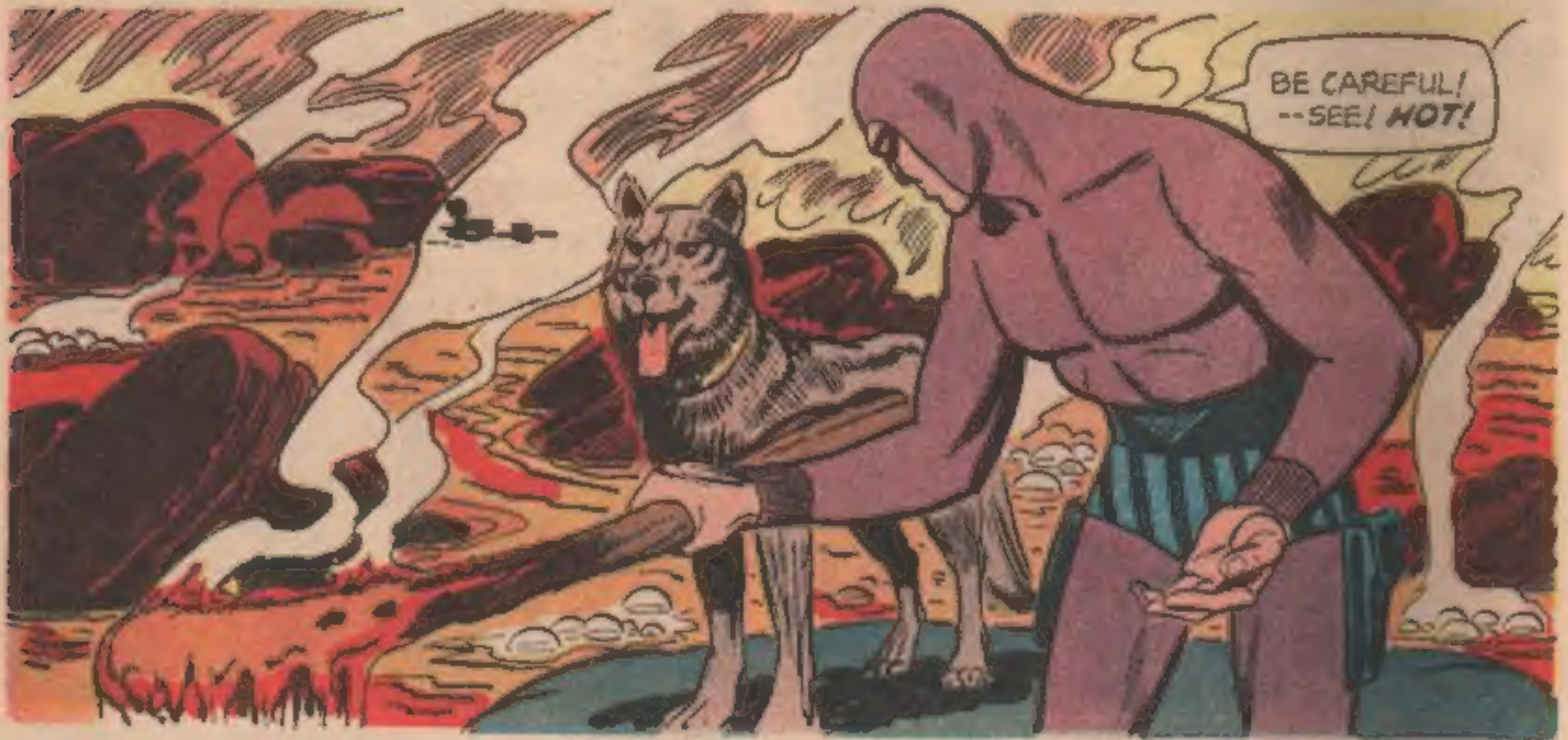


After three weeks, located LP hideout--Cave near Flying Eagle Rock! THEN

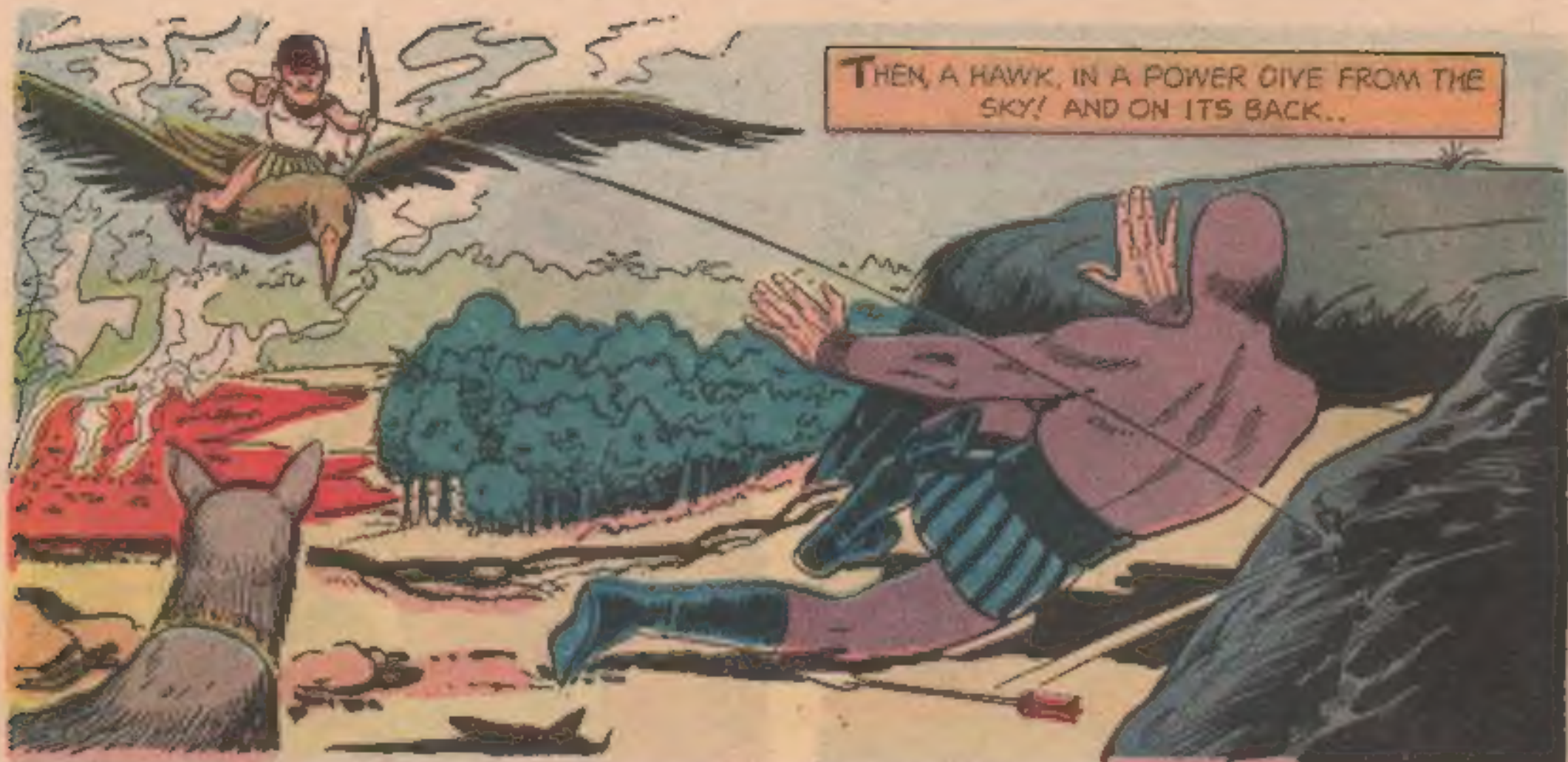


HERE'S AN ENTRY ABOUT A BATTLE WITH THE LP!--HMM, WHAT CAN LP MEAN?





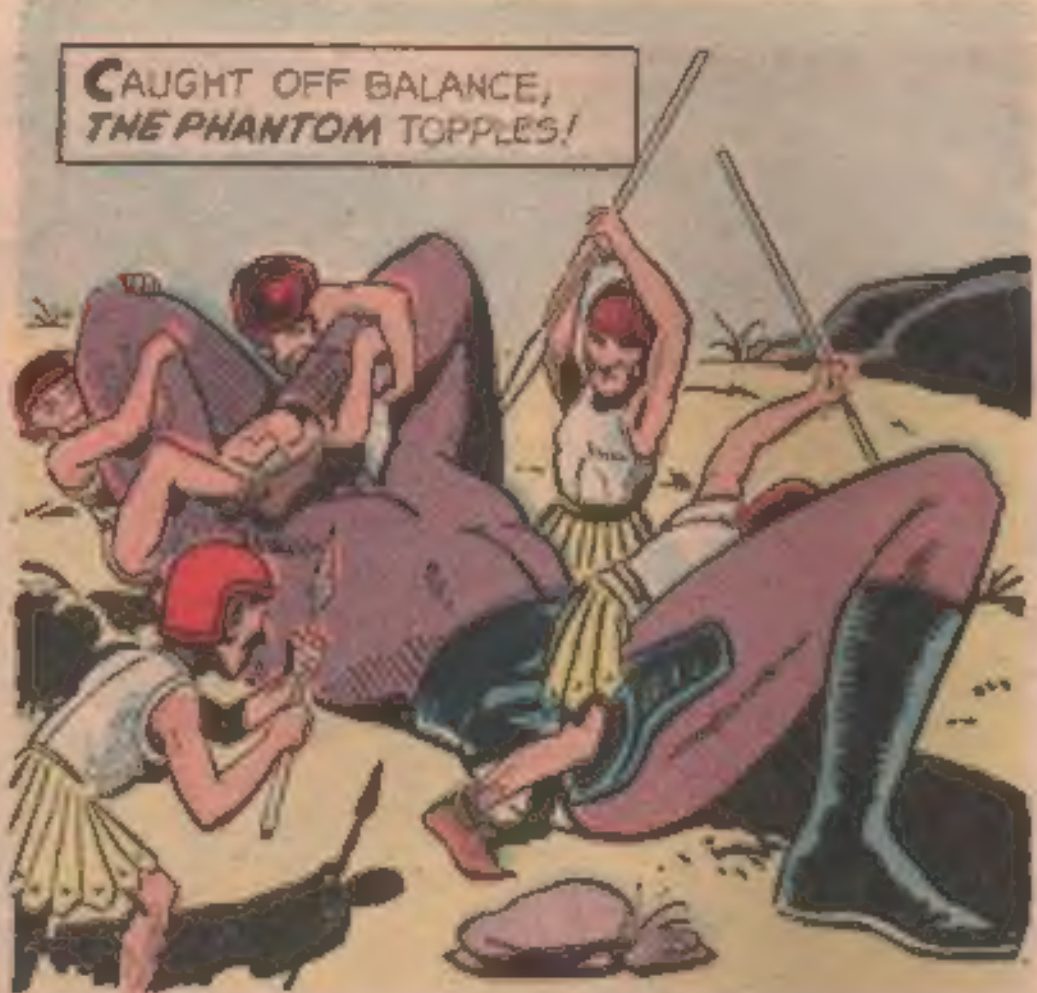




THEN, A HAWK, IN A POWER DIVE FROM THE SKY! AND ON ITS BACK...



THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE! I'VE FOUND THE LP--THE LITTLE PEOPLE!



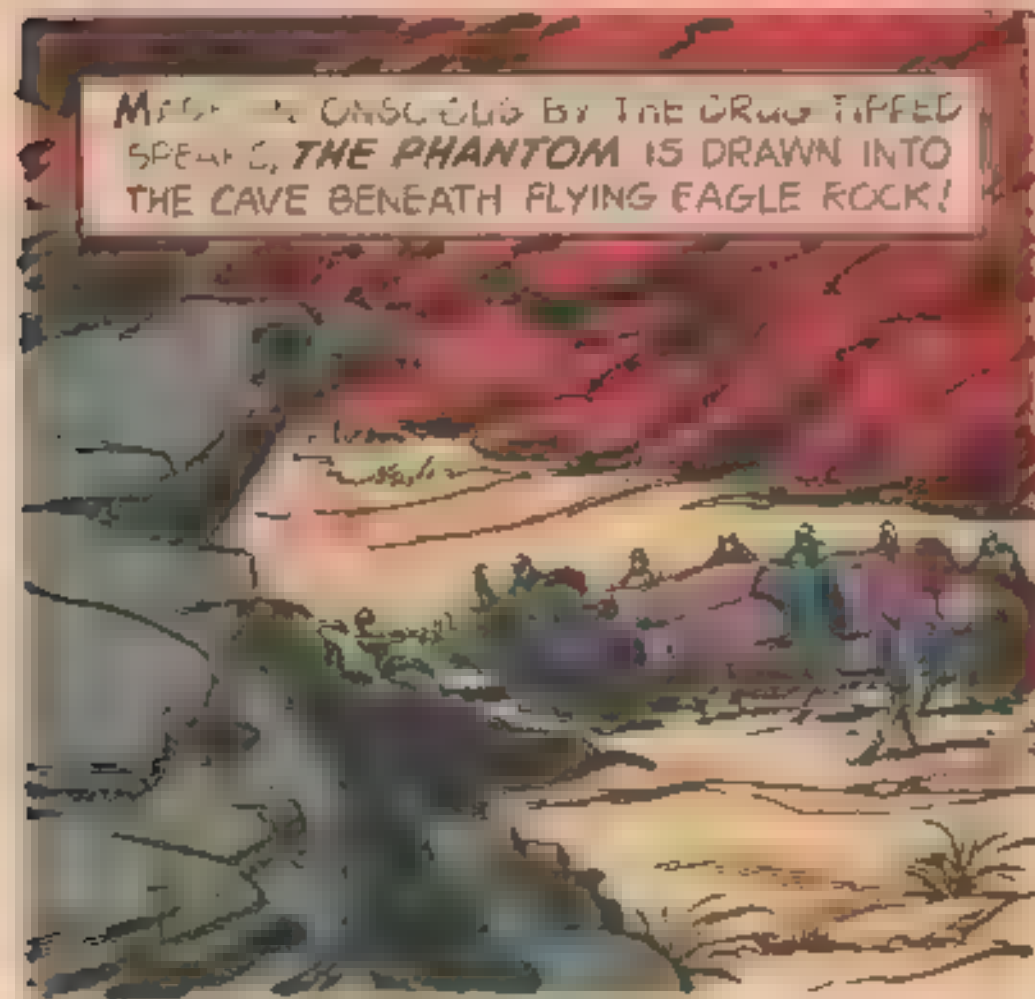
CAUGHT OFF BALANCE, THE PHANTOM TOPPLES!



OTHERS ATTACK THE SURPRISED DEVIL!

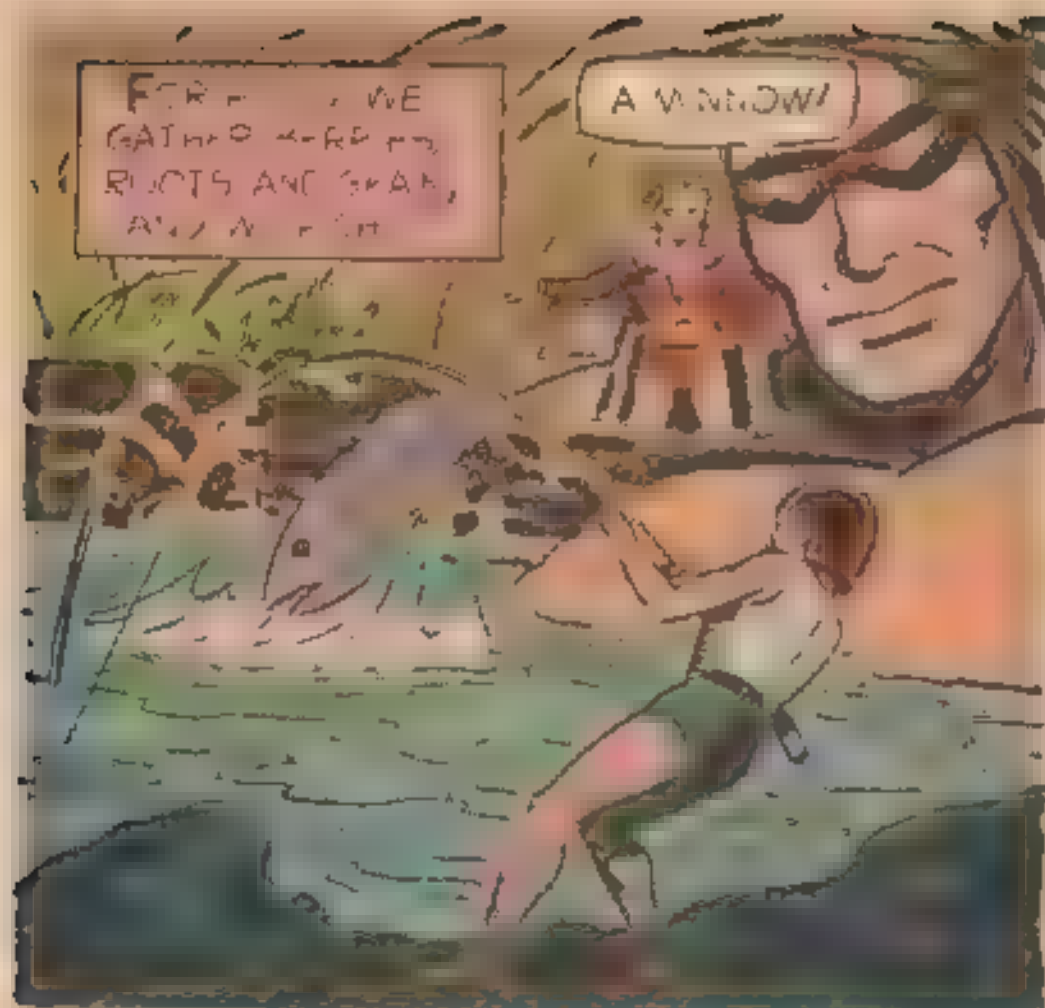


THE PHANTOM FIGHTS TO HIS FEET AS TINY SPEARS PRICK HIM!









FOR - WE  
GATHER HERE FOR  
RITUALS AND SPIRIT  
ALL AROUND

A WINDOW!



'HERE, AFTER  
THEY ARE  
HATCHED,  
WE TRAIN  
OUR FLYING  
STEEDS THAT  
YOU CALL  
HAWKS!'



"WE HUNT  
FROM THE AIR  
WITH THE  
DRUG-TIPPED  
ARROWS YOU  
KNEW SO WELL!"



"USING SECRET HERBS, WE MAKE THE  
DRUG FOR OUR WEAPONS WHICH CAUSES  
OUR ENEMIES TO SLEEP!"



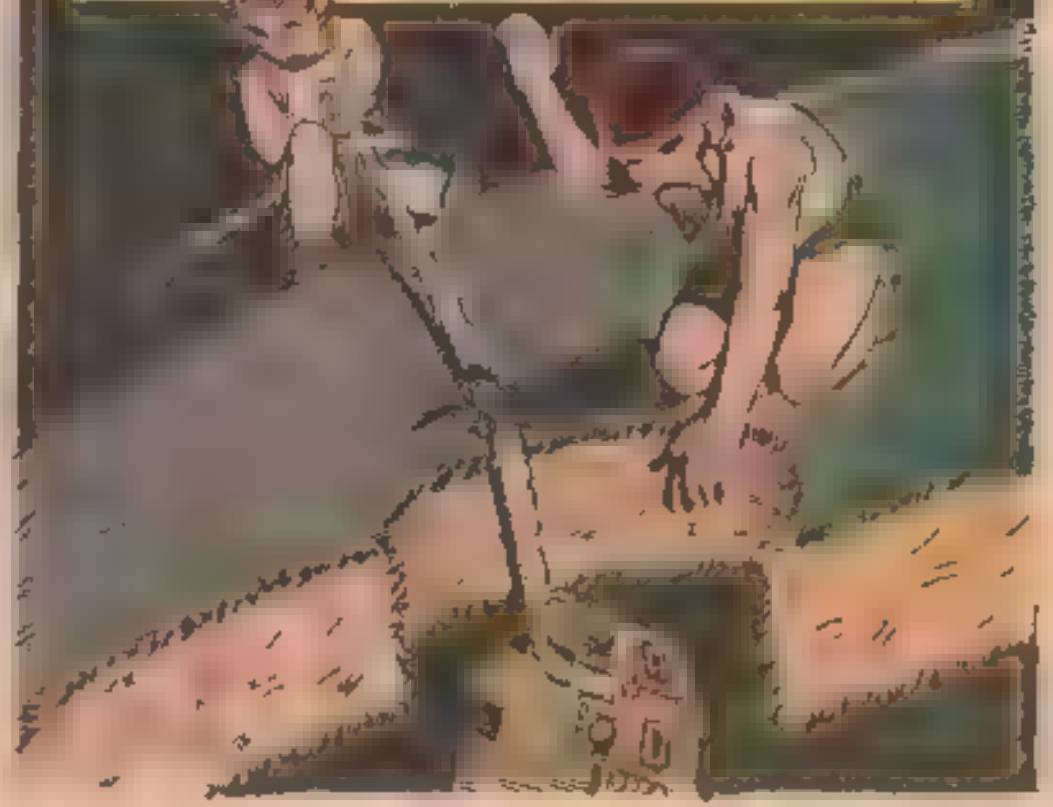
HOW DO YOU STEAL THE LONGO CROWN?

NOT I-- BUT A GROUP  
WHO HAVE GIVEN ME  
MUCH TROUBLE! THERE  
ARE TWO OF THEM NOW!

"THE FLYING STEEDS TOOK THEM ACROSS  
THE RIVER OF FIRE TO THE LONGC VILLAGE"



"THEY REMOVED THE CROWN THROUGH A  
HOLE, WHICH THEY REPAID SO NO ONE  
WOULD KNOW"



"THEN  
THEY  
FLEW  
BACK HERE  
WITH THE  
CROWN"



"YOU BROKE THE PHANTOM  
TREATY! -- YOU MUST  
BE PUNISHED!"

"HE IS NOT OUR  
ANCIENT  
FRIEND!"

"DESTROY  
HIM!"



"I CAN MOVE IN  
HERE..."

"IF I'M NICKED WITH  
THOSE DRUGGED  
SPEARS AGAIN, I  
MAY NEVER  
WAKE UP!"

"DRAGON!"

"DRAGON!"





THE HUGE CAVE IS  
SUDDENLY A BEDLAM!



SO *THIS* IS A  
DRAGON! -- IT'S  
A BIG ONE!



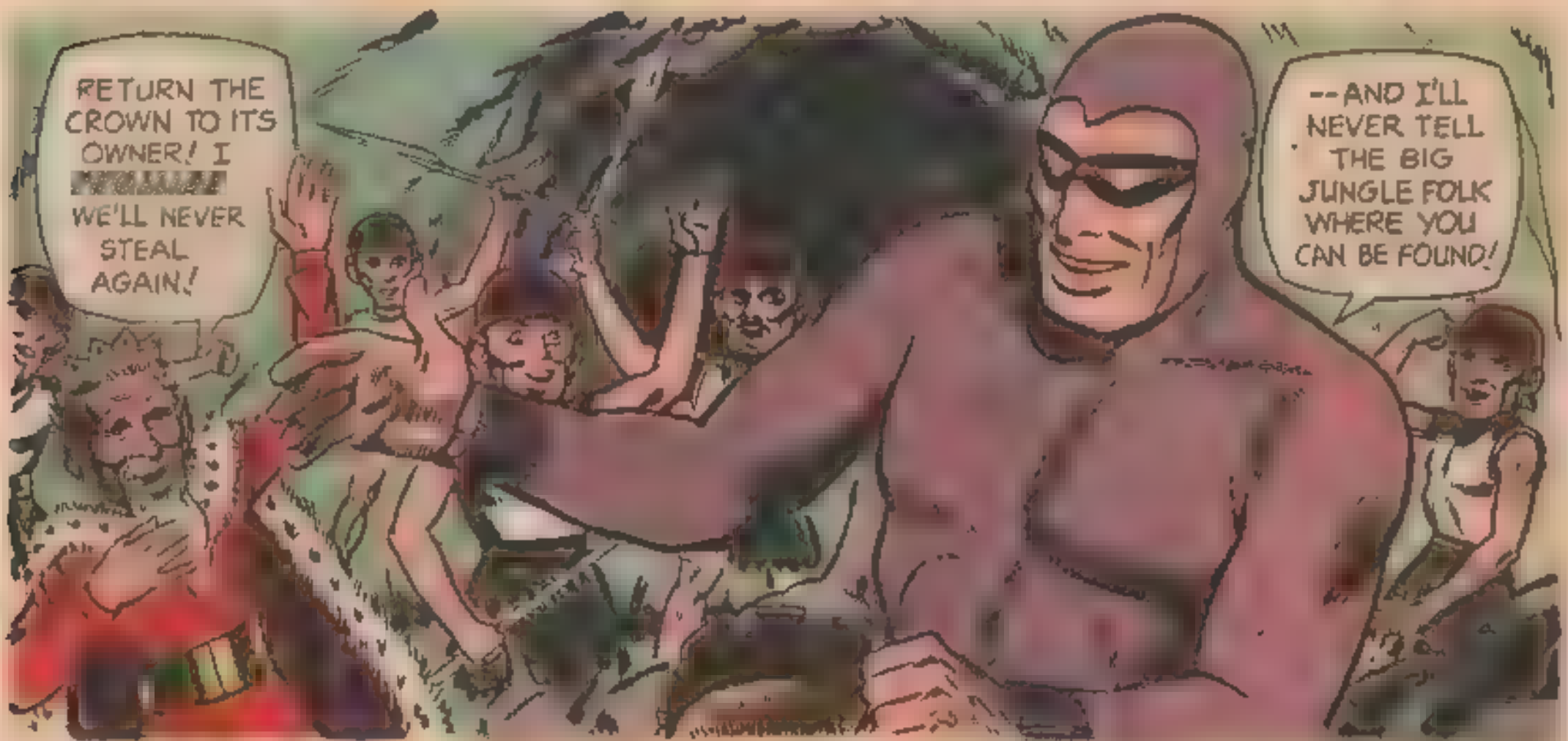
THE TINY SPEARS BOUNCE  
HAPHALESSLY FROM THE  
TOUGH HIDE OF THE HUGE  
CROCODILE!



I CAN'T SHOOT  
IN THIS CAVE!  
--THE BLAST  
WOULD BREAK  
THEIR TINY  
EARDRUMS!



THEN, KNIFE IN  
HAND, THE  
PHANTOM LEAPS!



# GREAT JUNGLE LEGENDS



Although civilized people no longer believe them, the jungle still abounds in tales handed down from father to son through the ages.

Many of the animals in these stories never really existed. The Unicorn, for instance, is supposed to be a small animal, about the size of a goat, with one horn in the middle of his forehead. He is said to be so fast that no hunter can catch him. But a pure maiden left alone in the woods can easily charm him into captivity. Although not ferocious by nature, the Unicorn can kill an elephant with his single horn! The horn of a Unicorn, according to the story, is a valuable aid against poisons, especially arsenic. Needless to say, no one has ever proved it!

One of the strangest of the legendary animals is the Griffin, an animal that looks like a lion with the wings and head of an eagle. People who believe in Griffins say that they hate horses, and will tear to pieces any human being they happen to see! That, they say, is why no one has ever talked of a face-to-face encounter with a Griffin.

It used to be a common belief that everything on earth has a counterpart in the water. As proof, people point to the seahorse, the dogfish and the spider crab. But one of the most interesting parts of this story is about Mermaids, who are women with the tails of fish instead of legs. Many people say that Mermen also haunt the briny deeps!

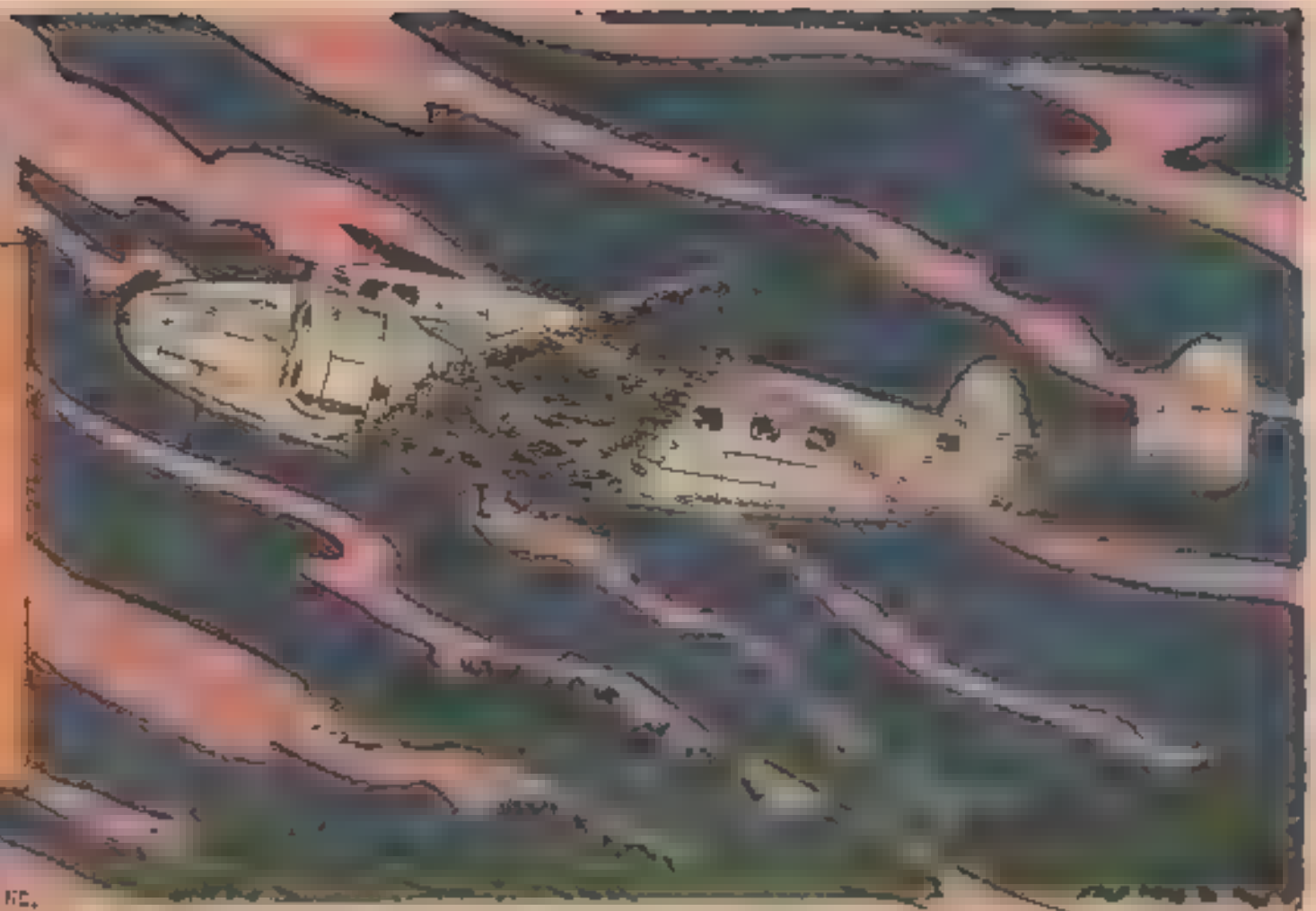
An animal called the Basilisk (although he doesn't exist) is the most terrifying to many jungle natives. They say that he can kill them just by his smell. Others believe that if a Basilisk just looks at a man, it destroys him! Birds in the air aren't even safe from this creature. He can devour them from great distances. This great serpent is hatched from a cock's egg by a toad. Only one animal can conquer him—the weasel. On seeing a weasel, the Basilisk runs terrified, but the weasel easily overtakes him and kills him every time.

The Dragon is supposedly the biggest of all serpents—in fact, the biggest of all living things! This fantastic beast lives in caves in the warmest climates. Its strength is not in its teeth, but in its tail, and it kills its prey by beating rather than by stinging. Any animal unfortunate enough to be put near a Dragon is doomed, for there is no defense against this monster. Even an elephant, they say, is not protected by his great size.

The legendary animal kingdom also includes a fantastic bird called the Phoenix. This is probably the most unusual of all because it is reputed to live to be more than five hundred years old! When the Phoenix notices signs of old age, he builds a fire of spice branches. Then turning his body toward the sun, he hovers over the fire until he has been completely burned. In just nine days, he rises, alive and refreshed, from the ashes!

# KING, QUEEN and JACK

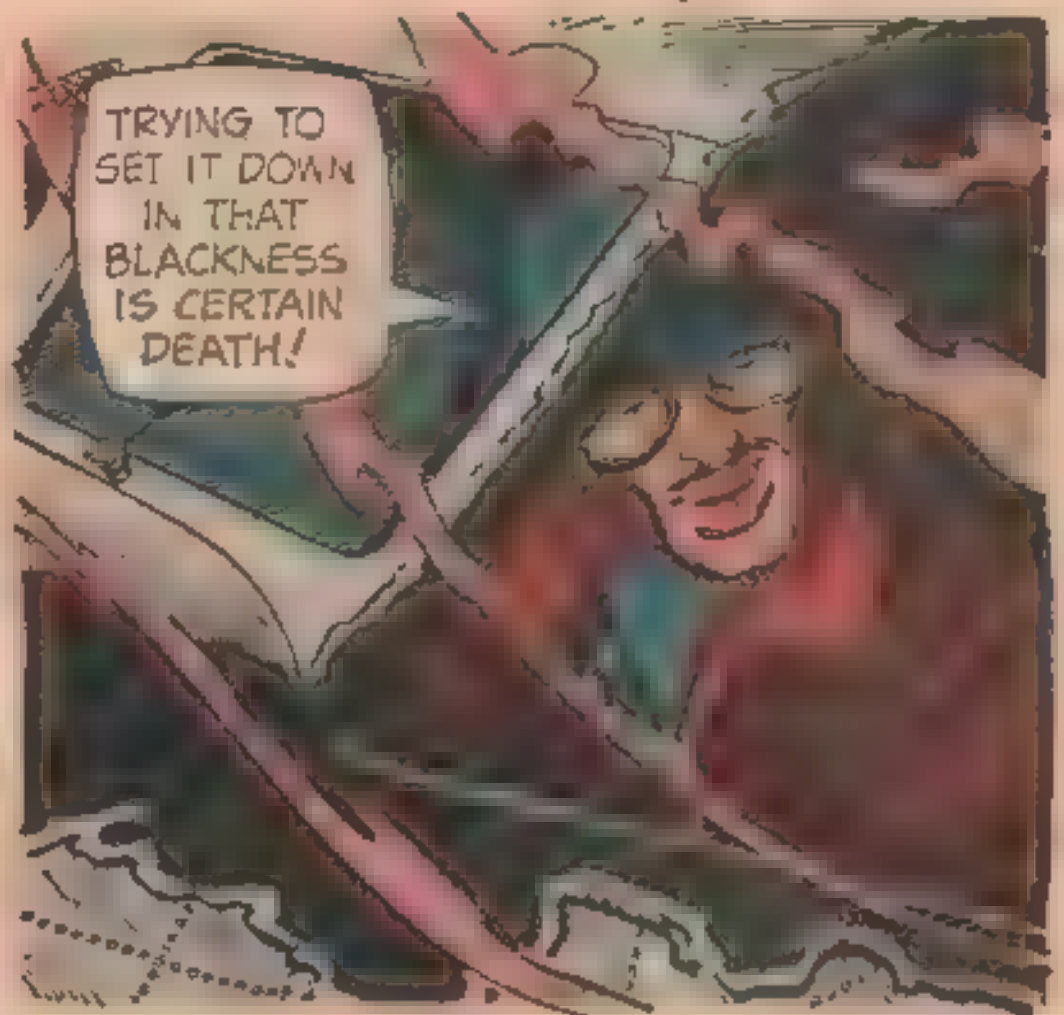
THE COUGH OF THE  
FALING ENGINES  
IS LOST IN THE  
FEEBILITY OF THE  
STORM AS THE  
PILOT FRANTICALLY  
TRYING TO  
KEEP HIS CRAFT  
FROM BEING SWAL-  
LOWED BY THE  
DENSE JUNGLE  
BELOW...



IT'S NO USE!  
THERE  
GOES THE  
STARBOARD  
ENGINE!



TRYING TO  
SET IT DOWN  
IN THAT  
BLACKNESS  
IS CERTAIN  
DEATH!



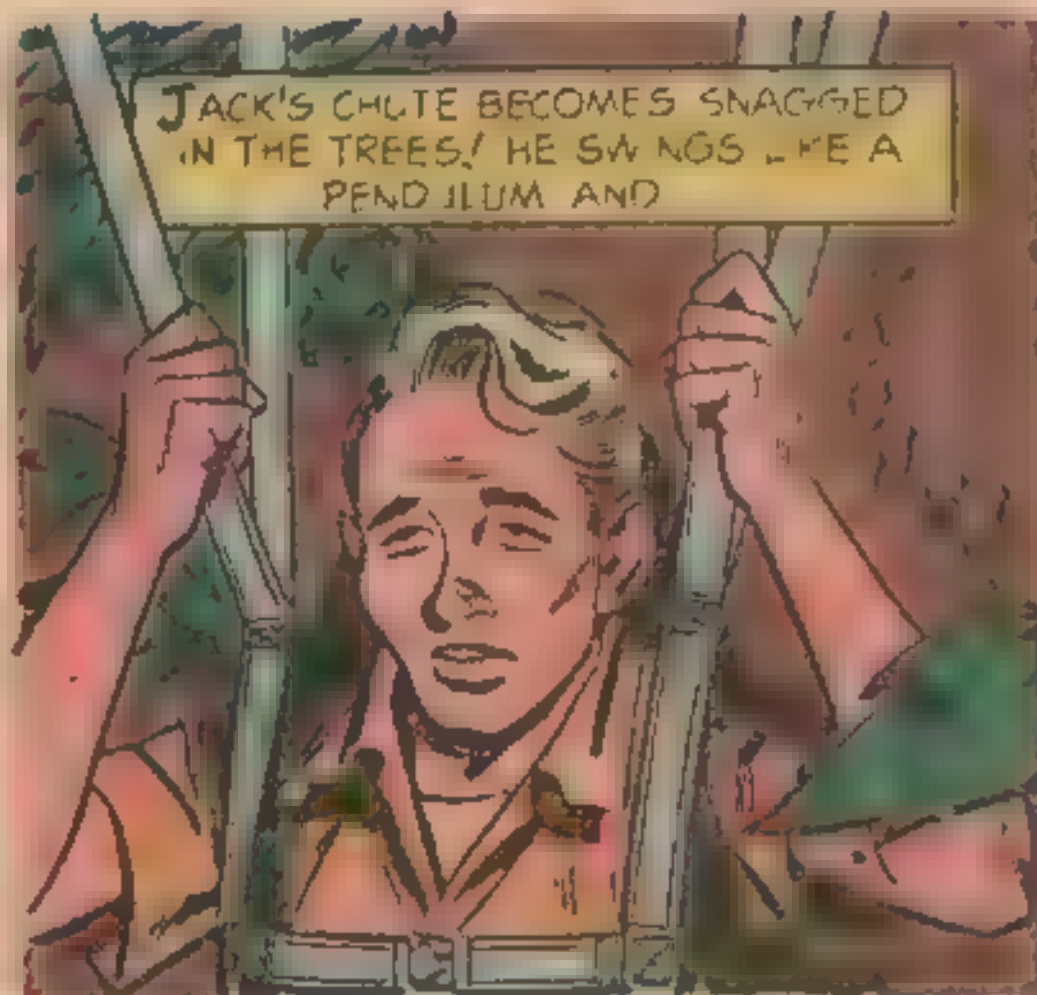
JUST ONE  
CHANCE IN  
A MILLION  
THE BOY!

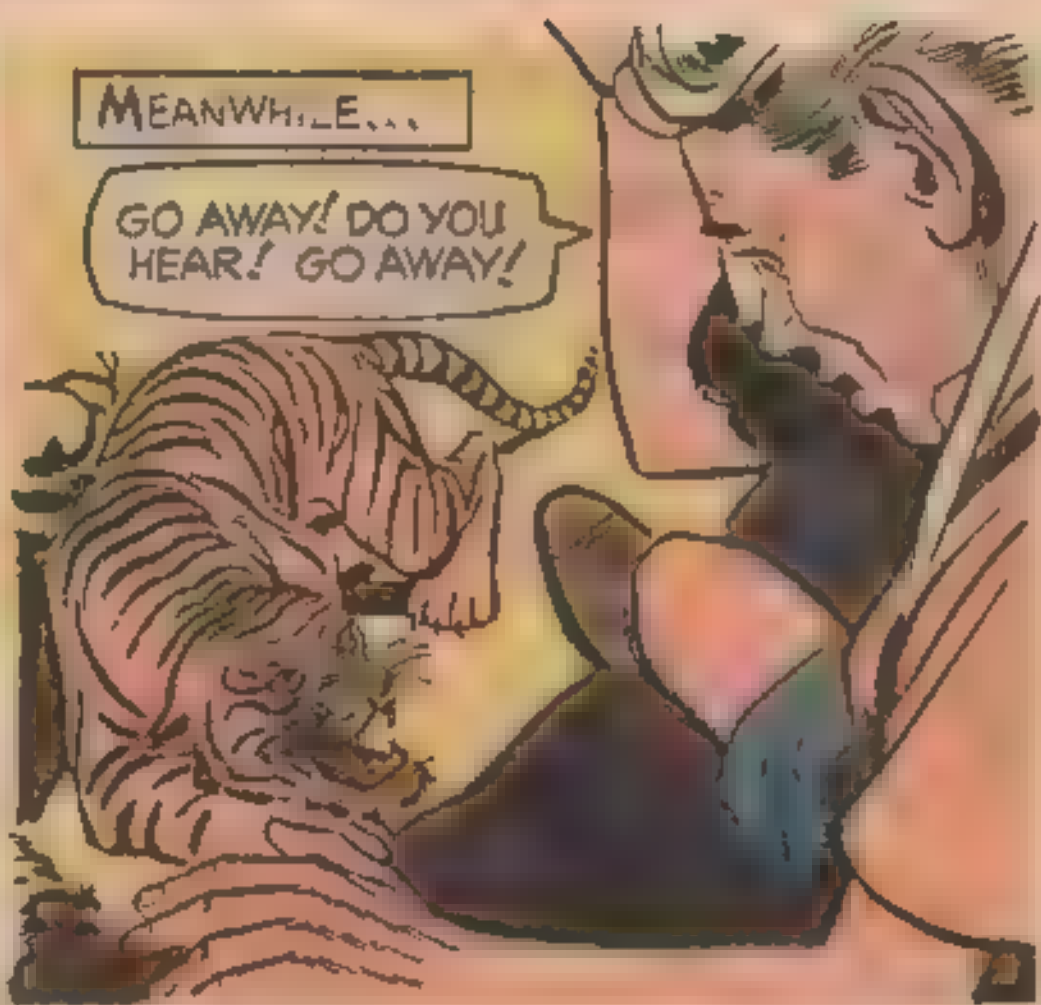
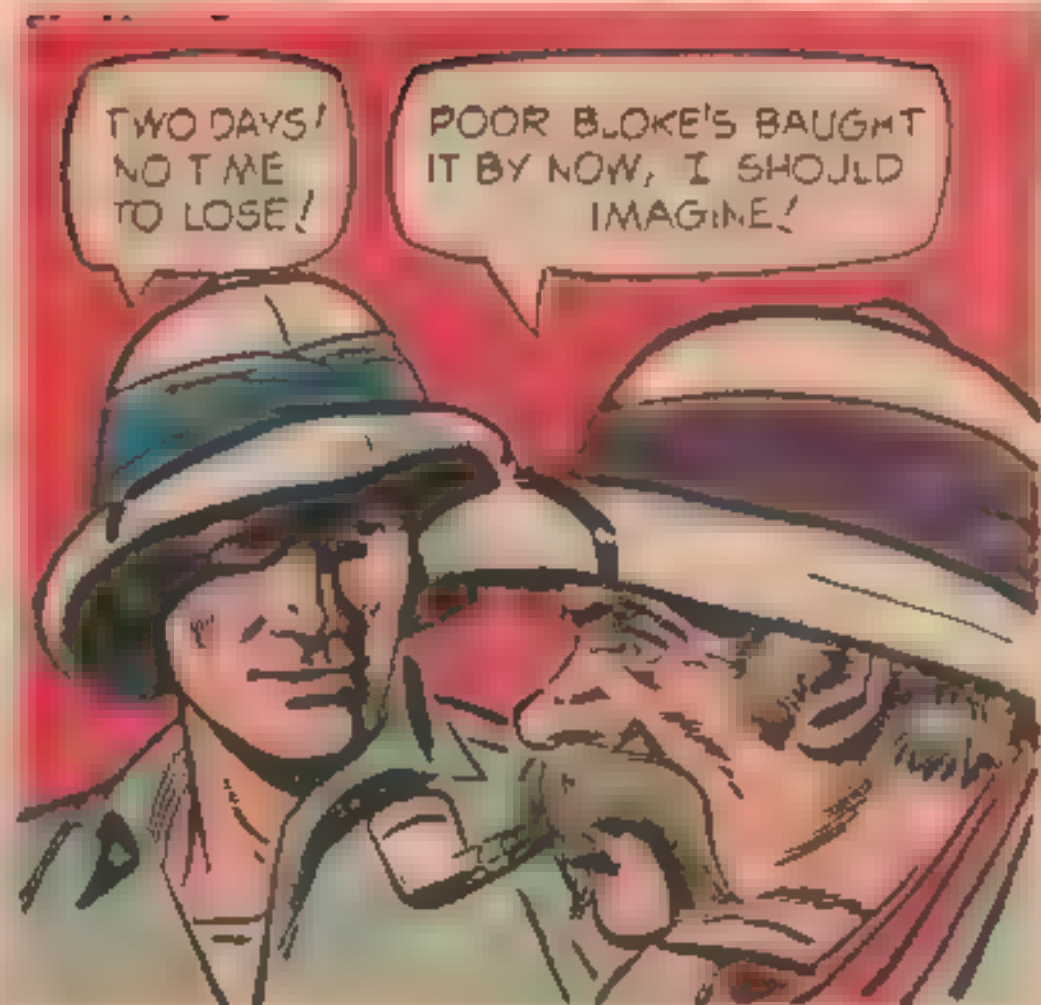
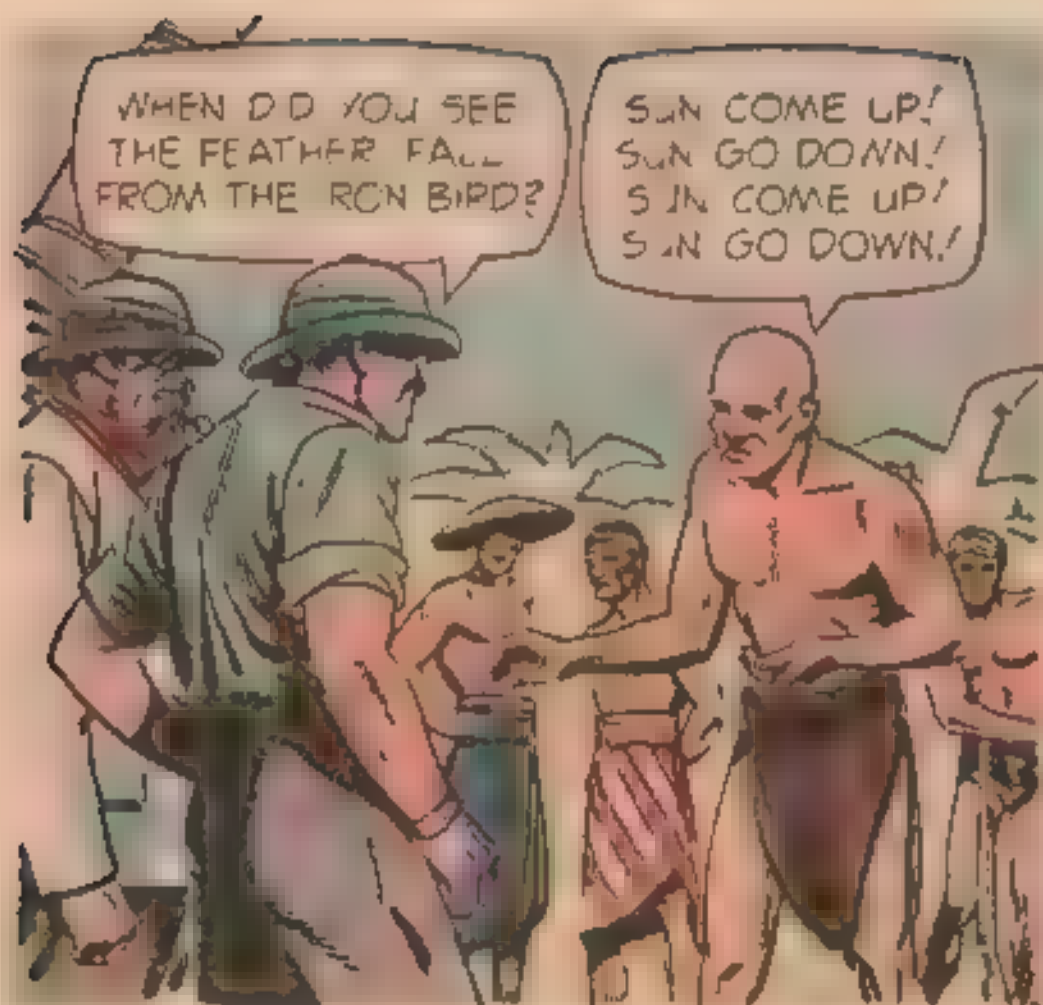


LET'S GO, JACK!  
YOU'RE GOING  
FOR A RIDE!

A PARA-  
CHUTE!  
OH BOY!

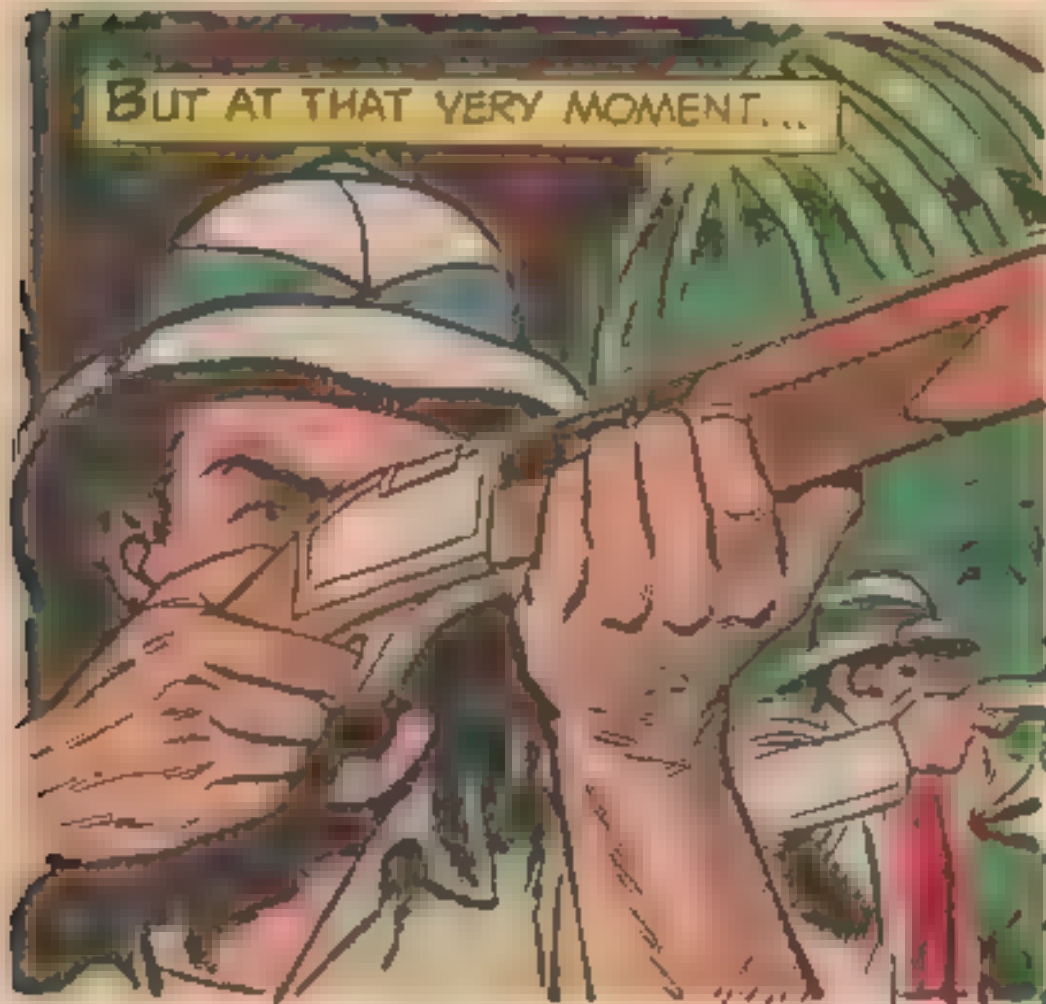








THE HUNGRY ANIMAL'S PATIENCE IS ABOUT TO BE REWARDED.



BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT...



OH! WAS I EVER SCARED!

I WAS, RATHER A BIT FRIGHTENED AT THE TIME, BUT I FEEL VERY



VICTOR KING AND FRANCIS QUEEN AT YOUR SERVICE, MAH LAD!

MY NAME IS JACK FOREST!

WELL, NOW-- THAT'S A GOOD ONE!



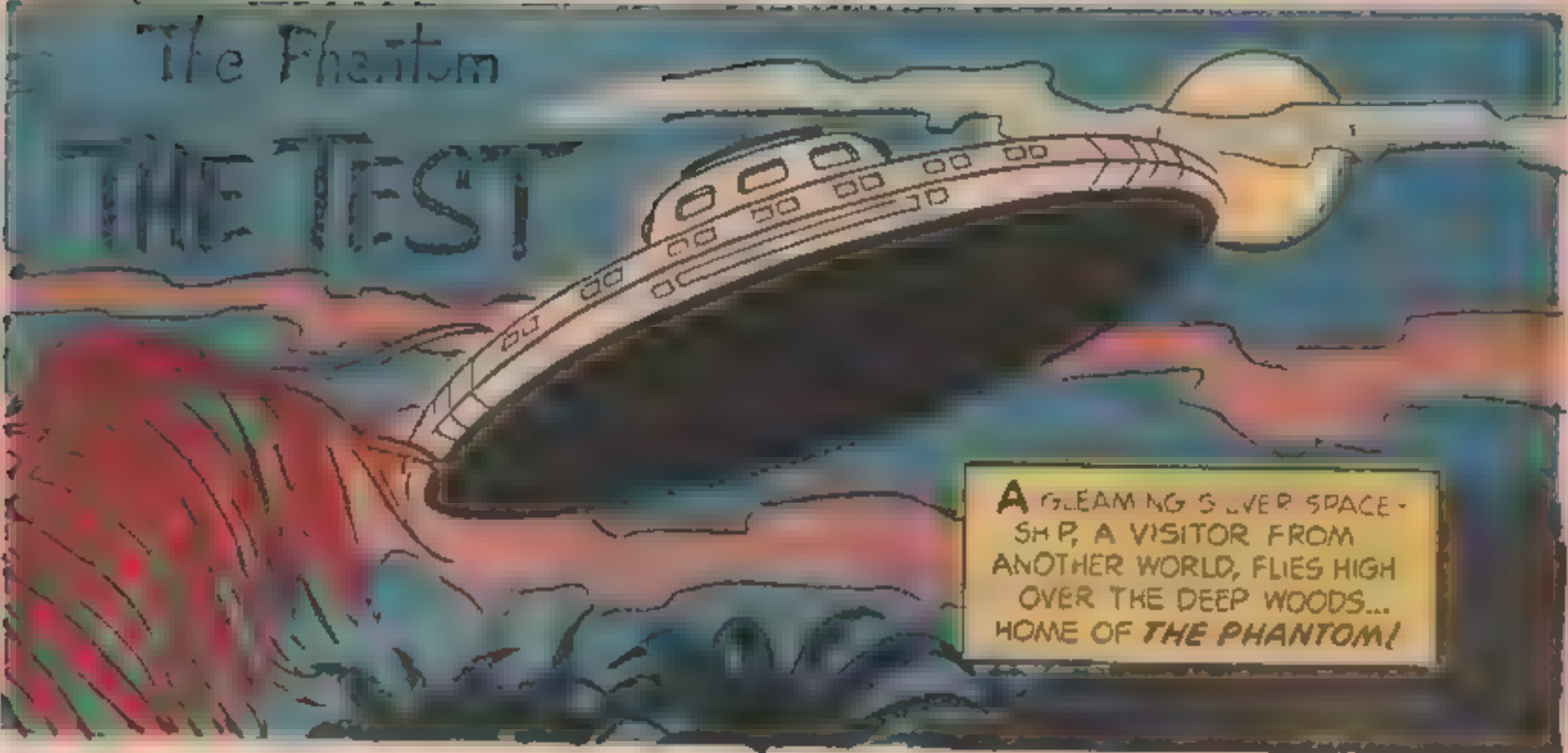
HOW'S THAT??

KING, QUEEN AND JACK!

FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF KING, QUEEN AND JACK IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PHANTOM

The Phantom

# THE TEST



A GLEAMING SILVER SPACE-SHIP, A VISITOR FROM ANOTHER WORLD, FLIES HIGH OVER THE DEEP WOODS... HOME OF *THE PHANTOM*!

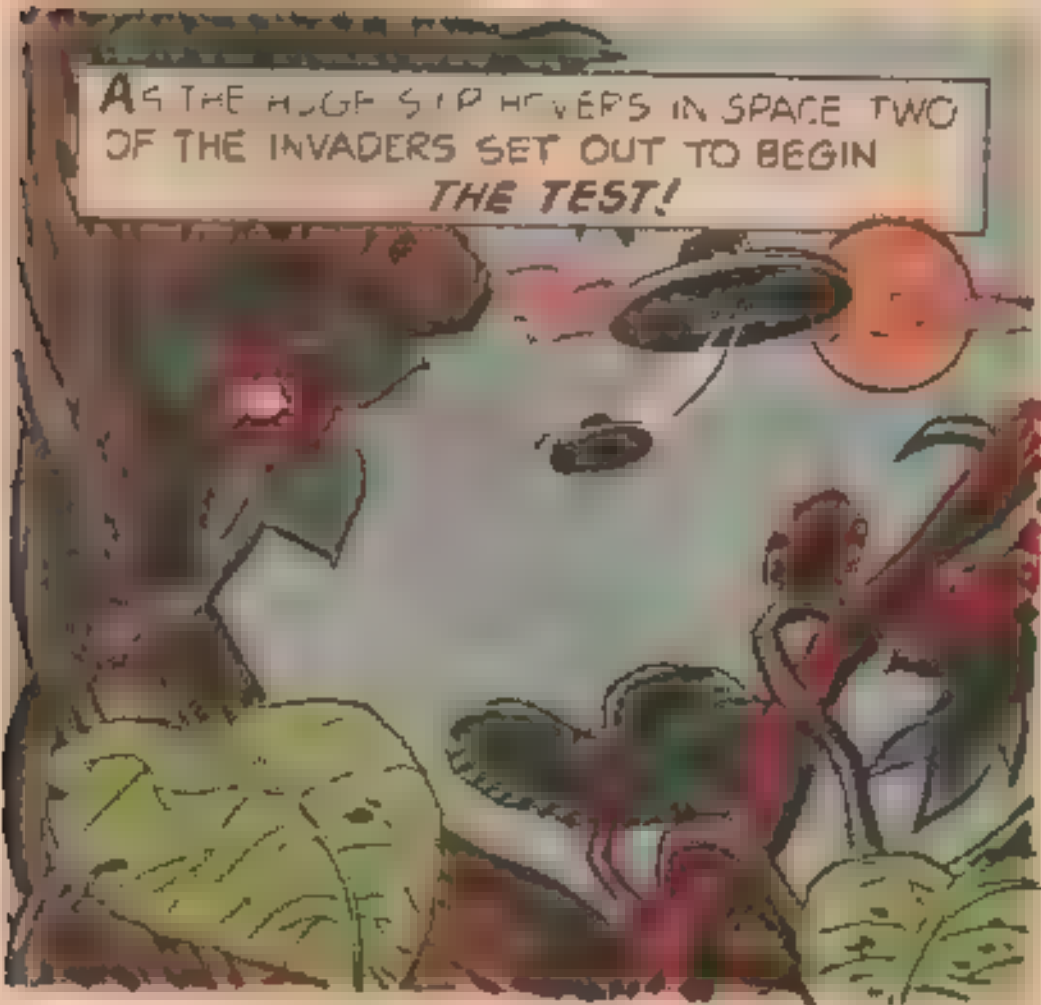


INSIDE ARE BLING'S, HALF-MAN, HALF-DEMON, COME TO CONQUER AND ENSLAVE THE EARTH!

FIND ONE OF THE EARTH'S INTELLIGENT BEINGS!



TEST THE FIRST ONE YOU SEE, BY OUR *USUAL* METHODS! WE MUST KNOW IF WE CAN CONQUER THIS RACE!



AS THE HUGE SHIP Hovers IN SPACE TWO OF THE INVADERS SET OUT TO BEGIN *THE TEST!*

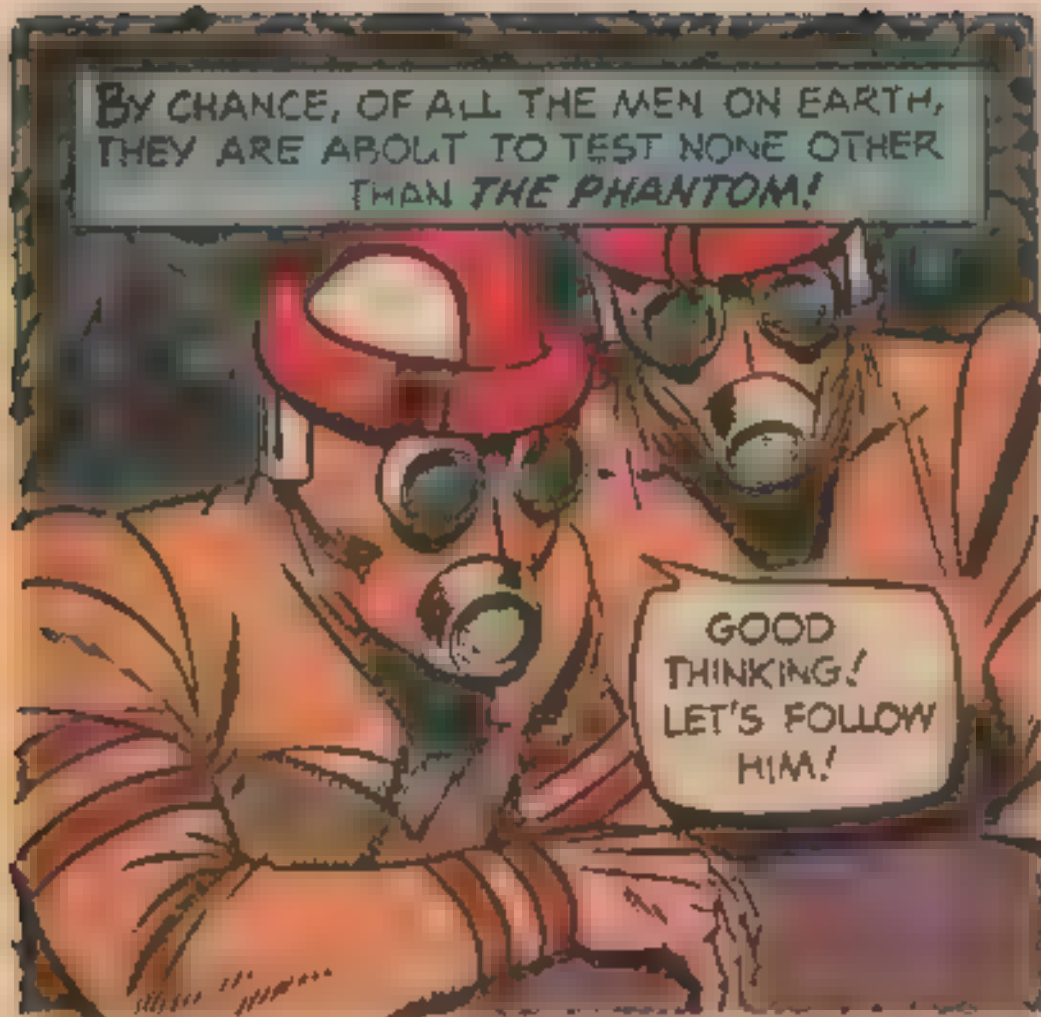
LATER, IN THE DEEP WOODS



BUT WHICH ONE IS THE BEING CALLED MAN?-- THE BIG ONE WITH FOUR LEGS?

NO! IF *HE* WERE INTELLIGENT, HE'D BE ON TOP!

BY CHANCE, OF ALL THE MEN ON EARTH,  
THEY ARE ABOUT TO TEST NONE OTHER  
THAN *THE PHANTOM!*



GOOD  
THINKING!  
LET'S FOLLOW  
HIM!

AS THE SPACEMEN WATCH, AN EARTHLY  
DANGER CONFRONTS *THE PHANTOM!*



THE GREAT CAT  
LEAPS AT *THE  
PHANTOM...*



THE FIGHTING FIGURES WHIRL-- IRON  
MUSCLES AGAINST JUNGLE FLURY!



THAT BIG MEAT-  
EATER WILL  
KILL HIM BE-  
FORE WE  
CAN TEST  
HIM!

YES! HE'LL  
*NEVER* DEFEAT  
IT WITHOUT  
WEAPONS!





THE PHANTOM  
PROVES THEM  
WRONG.

WHEW.. THAT  
WAS CLOSE!  
HE WAS A  
**BIG ONE!**



LET'S GET ON WITH  
OUR TEST! I'LL  
START A FIRE IN  
THAT TALL GRASS!

--AND I'LL  
DESTROY THE  
BRIDGE!



MOMENTS LATER ..

WHAT A SPOT! FIRE  
AT MY BACK... AND  
THE BRIDGE OUT!

ONLY ONE  
WAY TO KEEP  
FROM BEING  
**ROASTED!**



HE HAS DESERTED  
HIS BEASTS TO  
SAVE HIS **OWN** LIFE!  
WE CAN EASILY  
DEFEAT A RACE  
SO **COWARDLY!**



I'VE GOT TO WORK  
**FAST! DEVIL---**  
**UP ON HERO---**  
**HOLD TIGHT!**

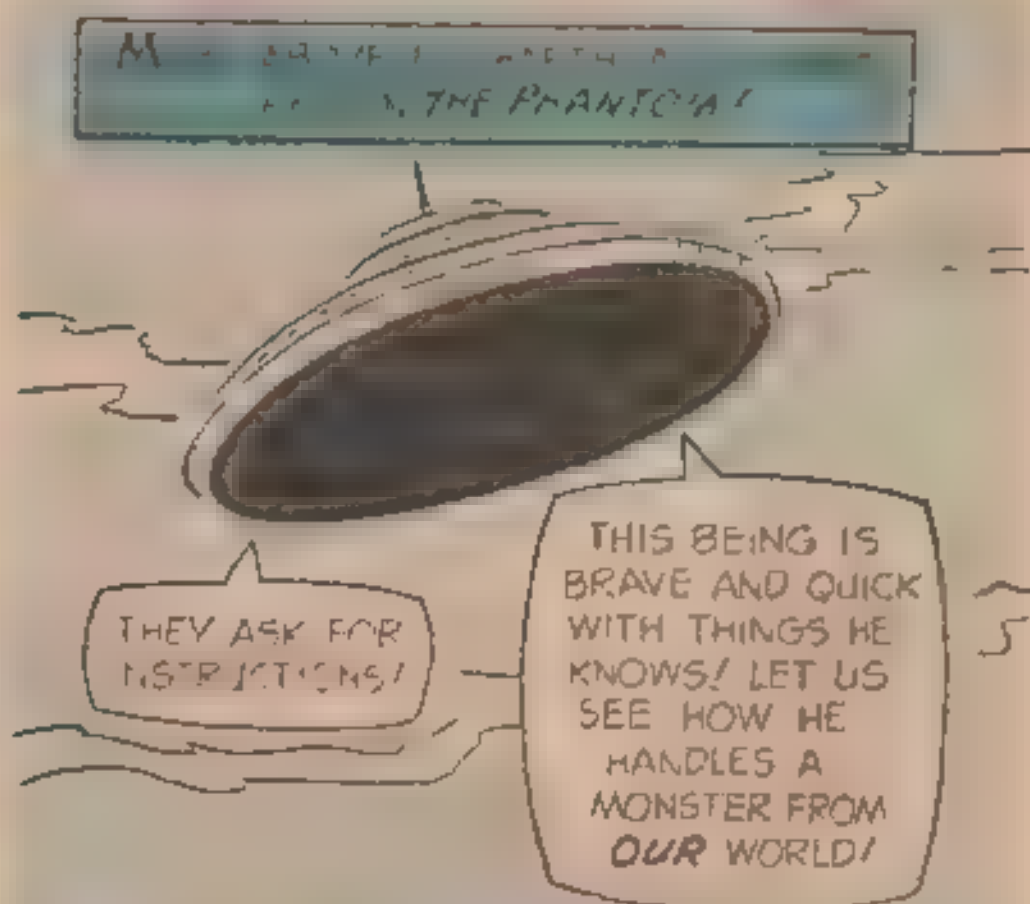


USING THE BOULDER AS A  
COUNTERWEIGHT, **THE PHANTOM**  
PULLS THEM UP!



JUDGING BY THIS,  
IT IS NOT CERTAIN  
WE CAN CONQUER  
THIS RACE!...  
WHAT NOW?

LET'S GET  
INSTRUCTIONS  
FROM THE SHIP!



THEY ASK FOR  
INSTRUCTIONS!

THIS BEING IS  
BRAVE AND QUICK  
WITH THINGS HE  
KNOWS! LET US  
SEE HOW HE  
HANDLES A  
MONSTER FROM  
**OUR** WORLD!

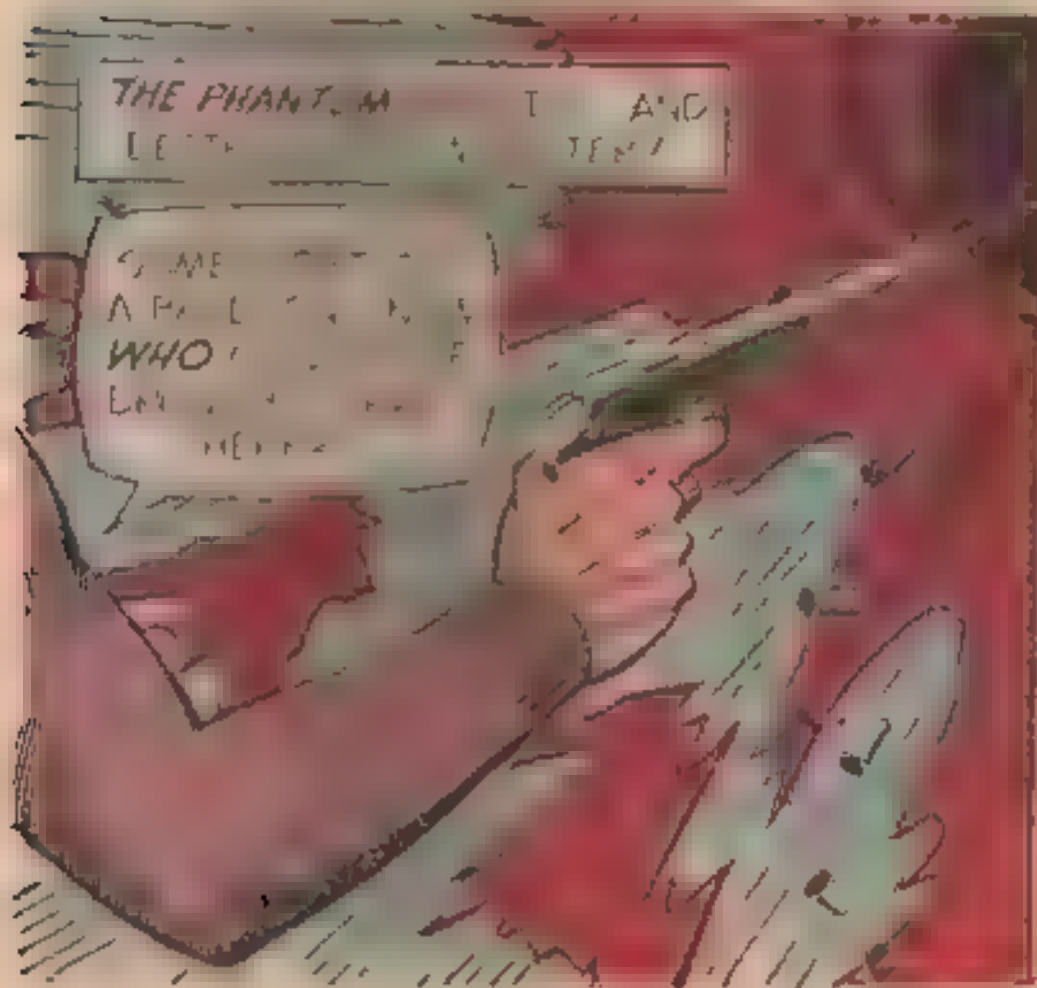
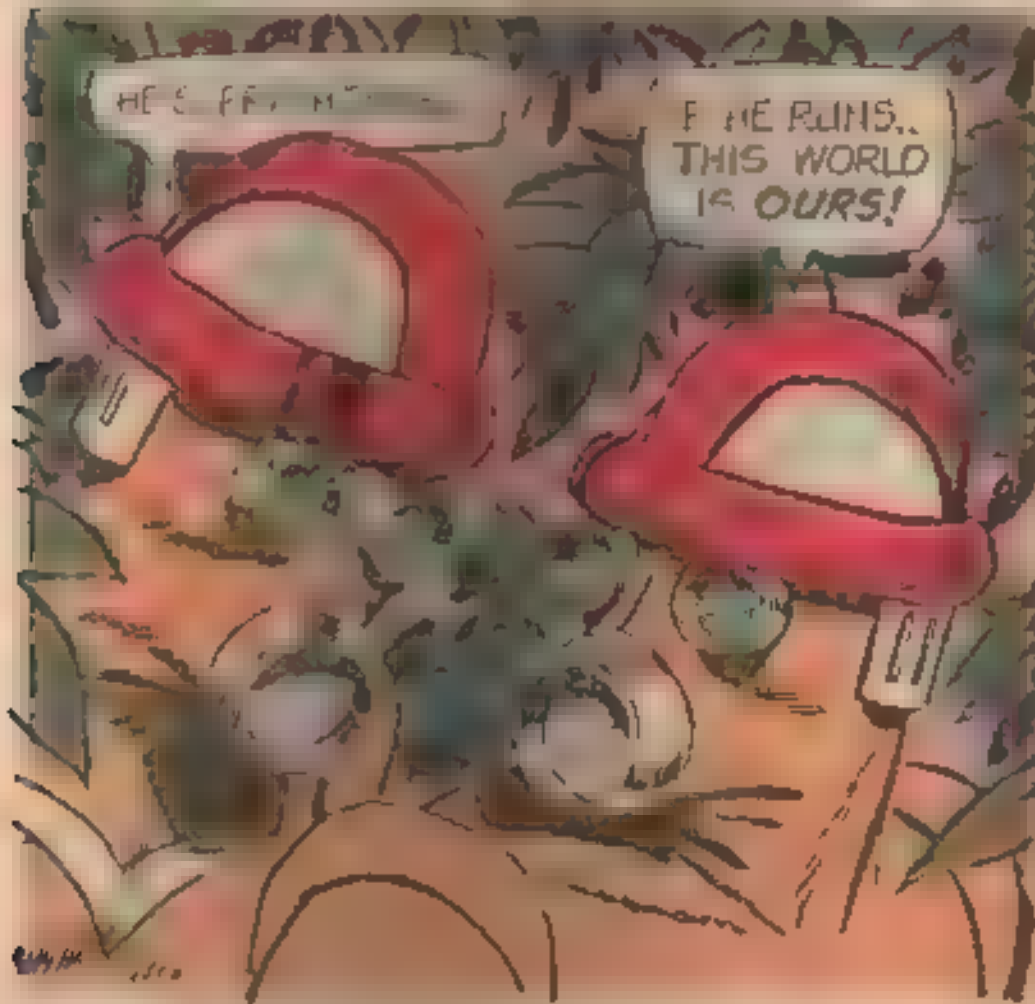


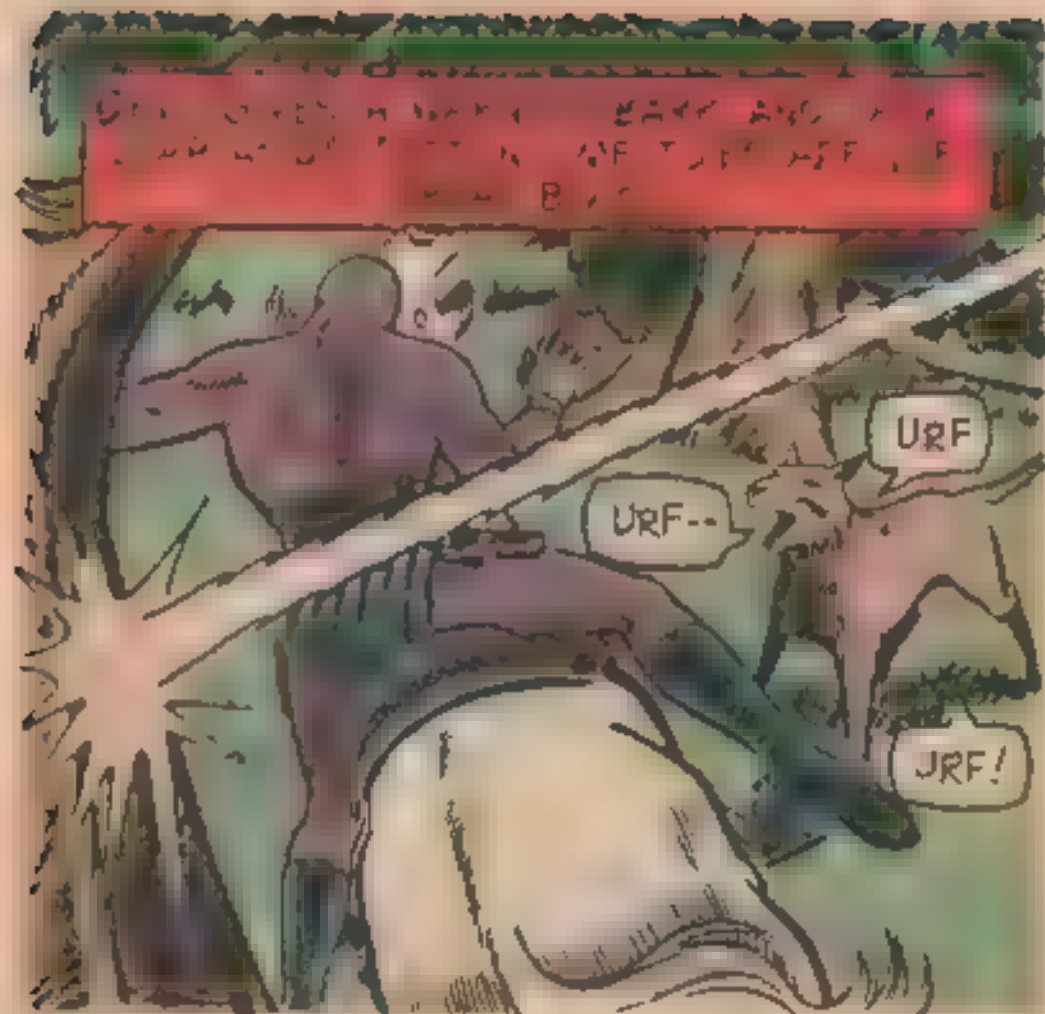
FOLLOWING THEIR INSTRUCTIONS, THE SPACE-  
MEN ASSEMBLE AN ARTIFICIAL MONSTER!



--WAIT UNTIL  
THE **MAN**  
HAS LEFT  
THE FIRST  
TIME!

UGH--FINISHED!  
IT LOOKS SO  
REAL, I HATE  
TO LOOK AT IT!







AT LAST THEY STAND FACE TO FACE--AND IT'S HARD TO SAY WHO'S MORE SURPRISED!

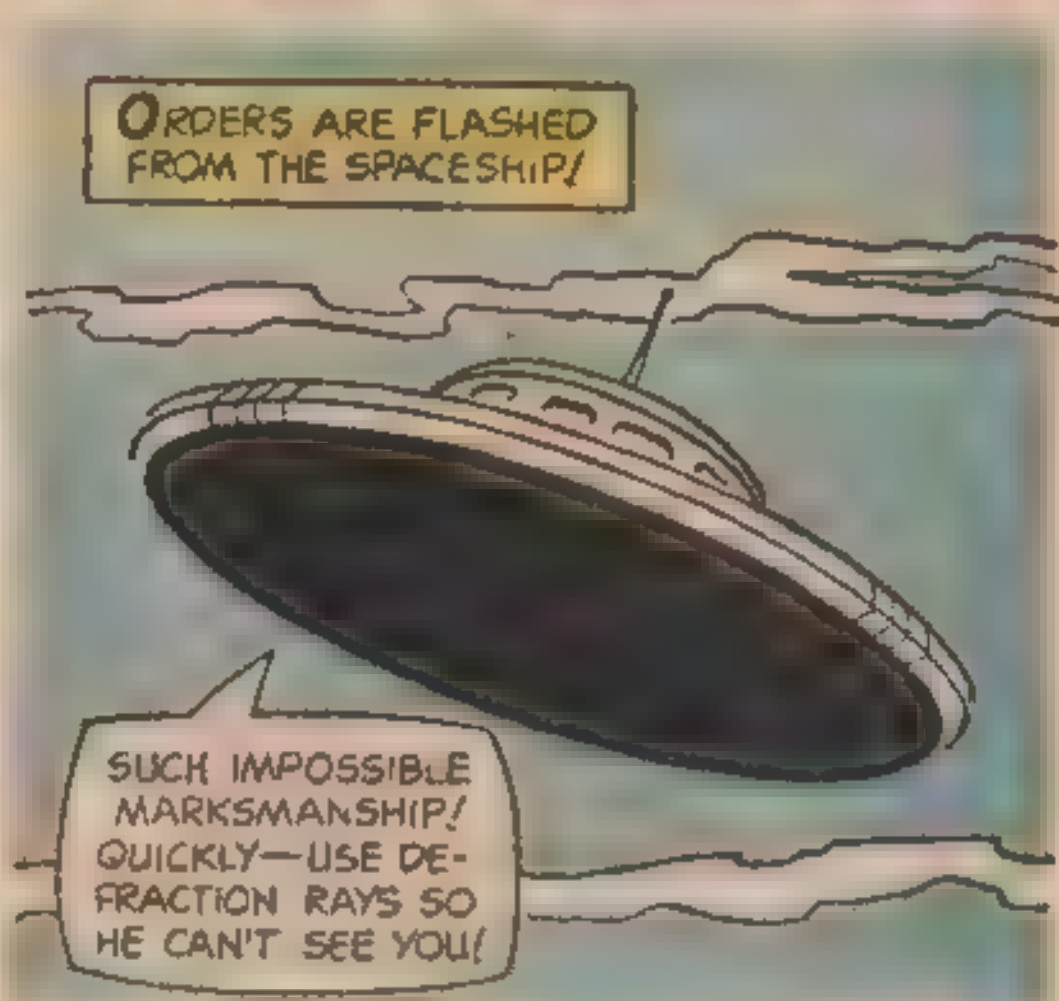
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BOYS!

WHAT?!

BLAST HIM!



BUT THE PHANTOM IS QUICKER!



ORDERS ARE FLASHED FROM THE SPACESHIP!

SUCH IMPOSSIBLE MARKSMANSHIP! QUICKLY--USE DEFRACTION RAYS SO HE CAN'T SEE YOU!



SUDDENLY, THE PHANTOM'S ATTACKERS VANISH

AM I SEEING THINGS?



IT'S MOST HUMILIATING TO HAVE TO HIDE WITH OUR DEFRACTION RAY! WE'VE NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE ANYWHERE!

I DON'T LIKE TO DO IT--BUT WE'LL HAVE TO PUT HIM TO--THE FINAL TEST!



HIGH IN THE SKY.

WE HAVE TRIED  
EVERY TEST ON  
THIS MAN AND  
HE HAS BEATEN US!  
SHALL WE GIVE UP?

NO! TRY  
THE FINAL  
TEST!



REVEAL YOURSELVES  
TO HIM AND CHALLENGE  
HIM TO HAND-TO-  
HAND COMBAT!



THIS SHOULD BE  
EASY--WE'RE SO  
MUCH **BIGGER!**



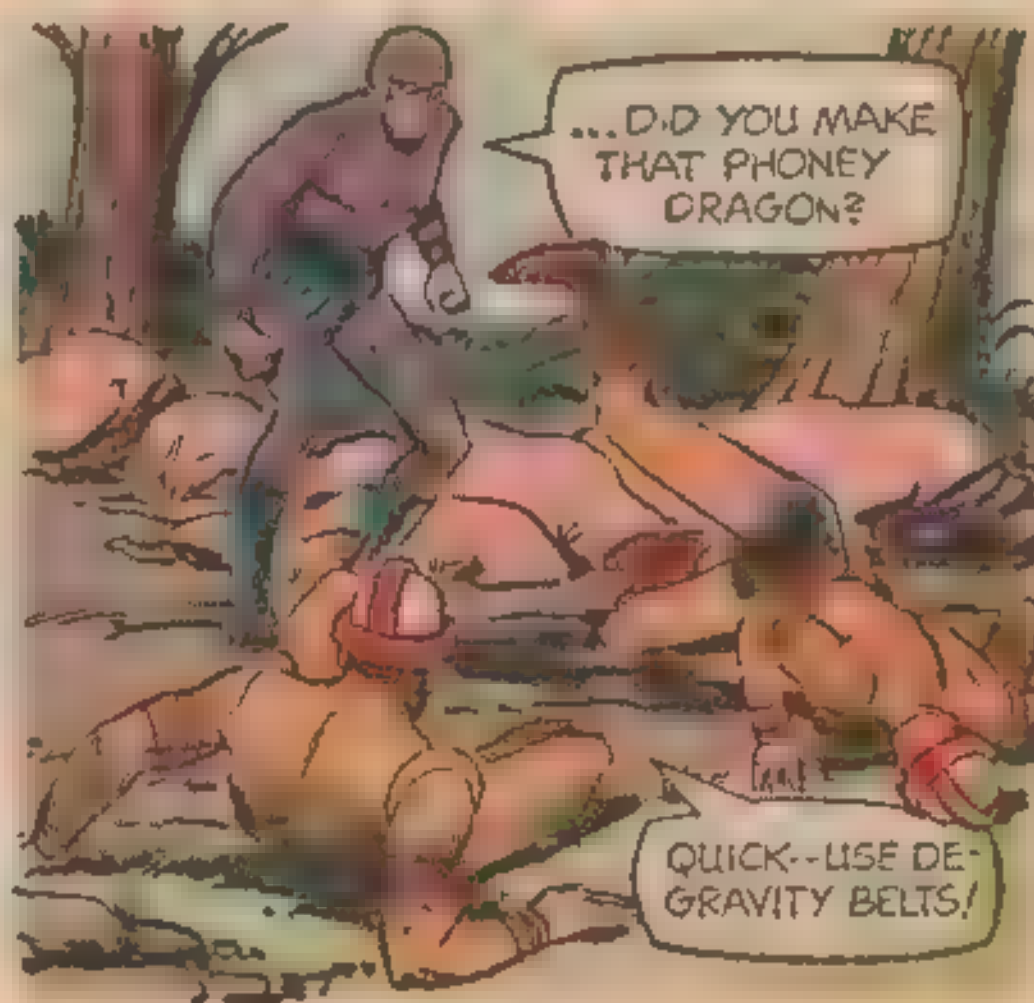
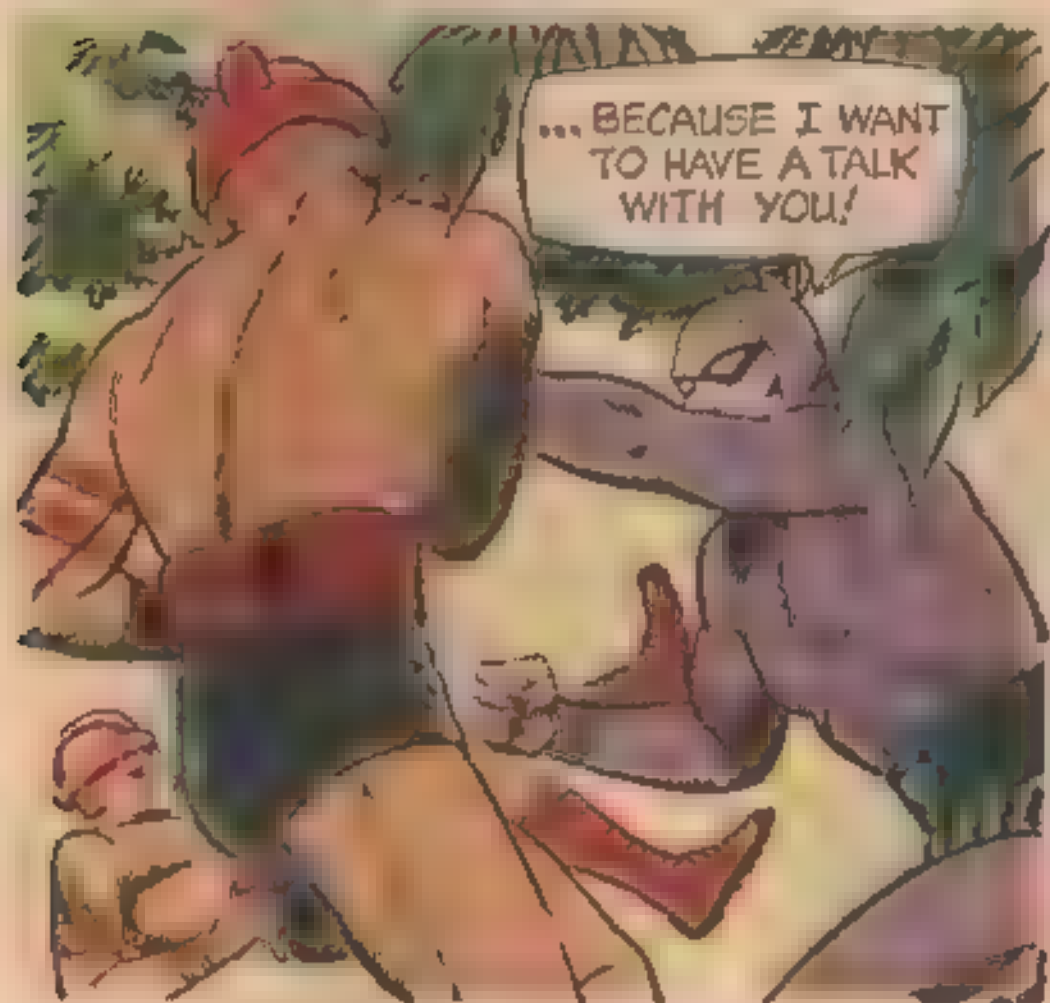
I HAVE A  
STRANGE  
FEELING  
SOMETHING'S  
MOVING  
NEAR ME!  
BUT I  
CAN'T SEE  
**ANYTHING!**

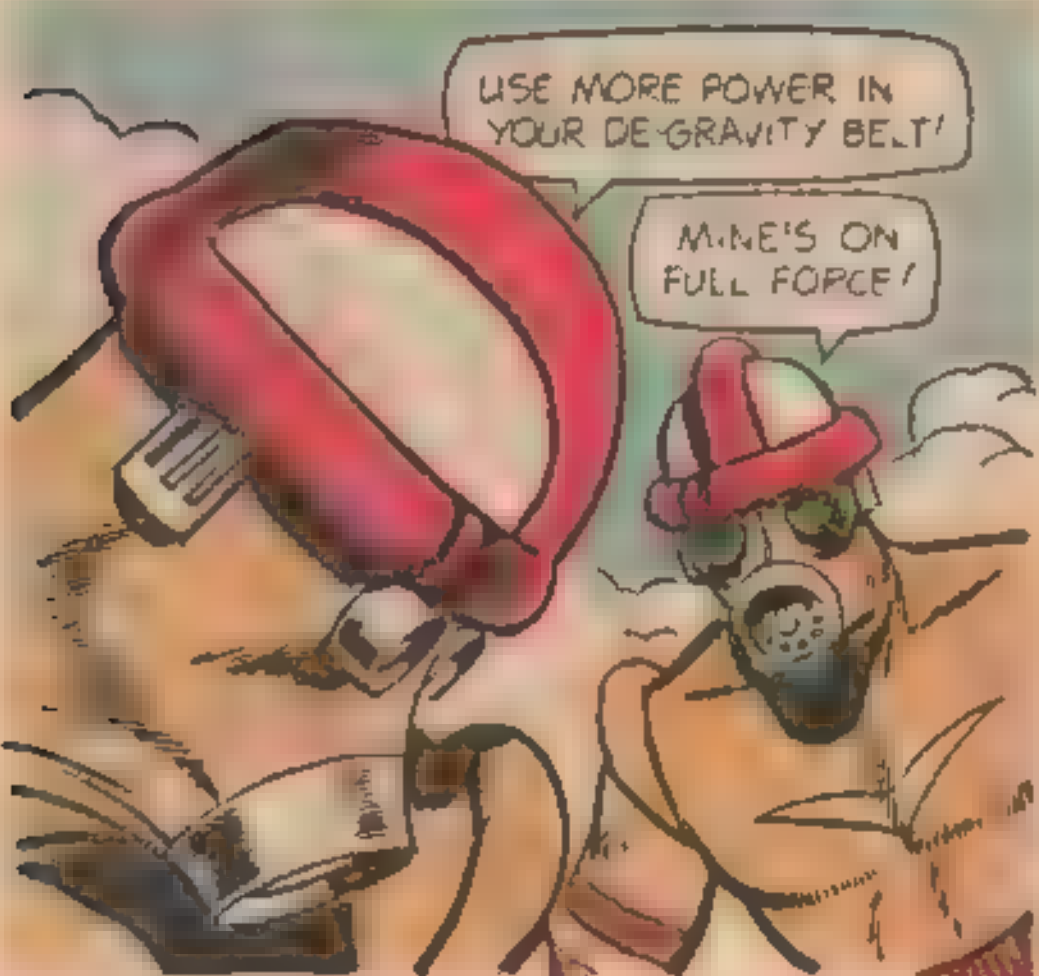
THEY ARE BEING  
BY INVISIBLE INTRUDERS

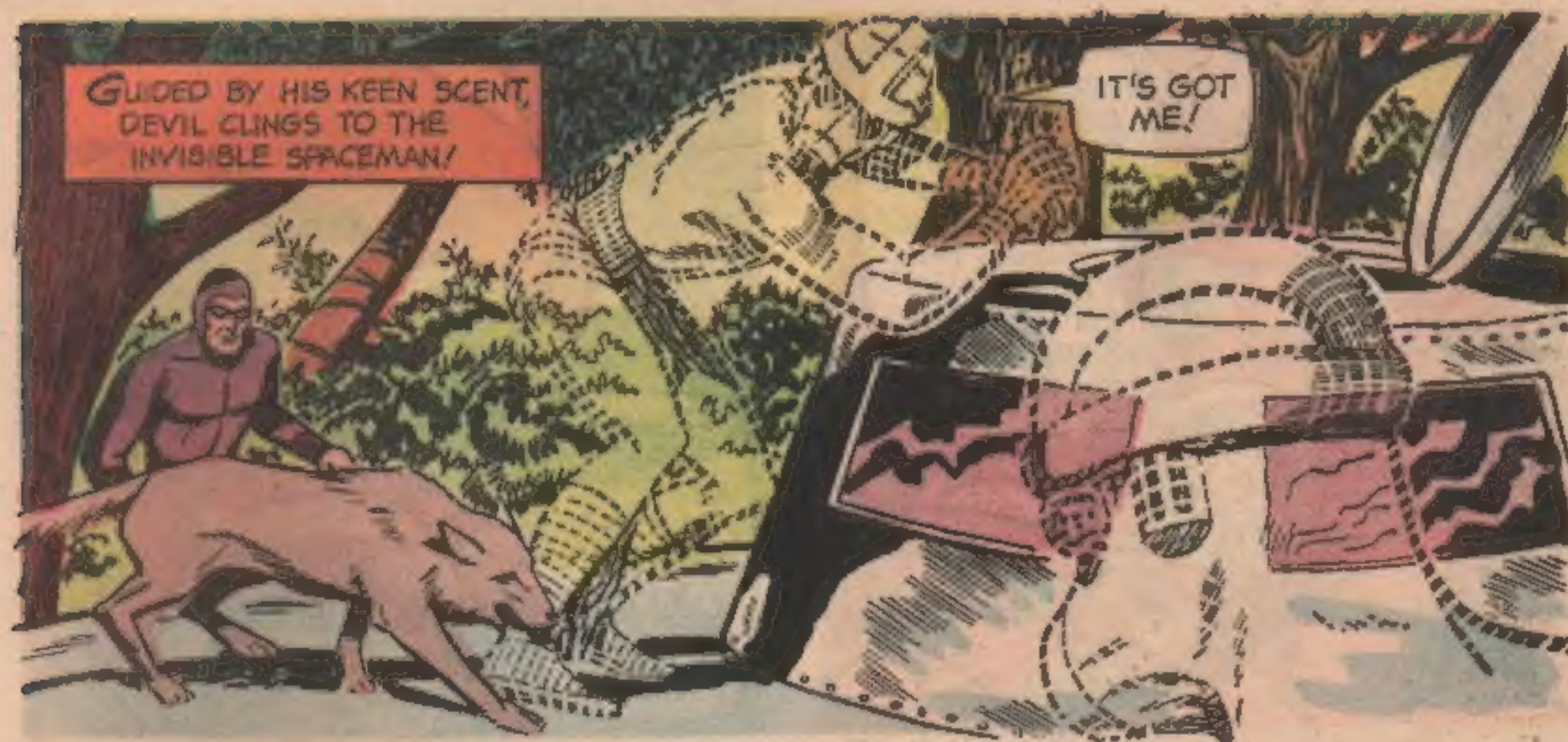


!

?









AND THE SMALL SHIP BLASTS OFF INTO SPACE!



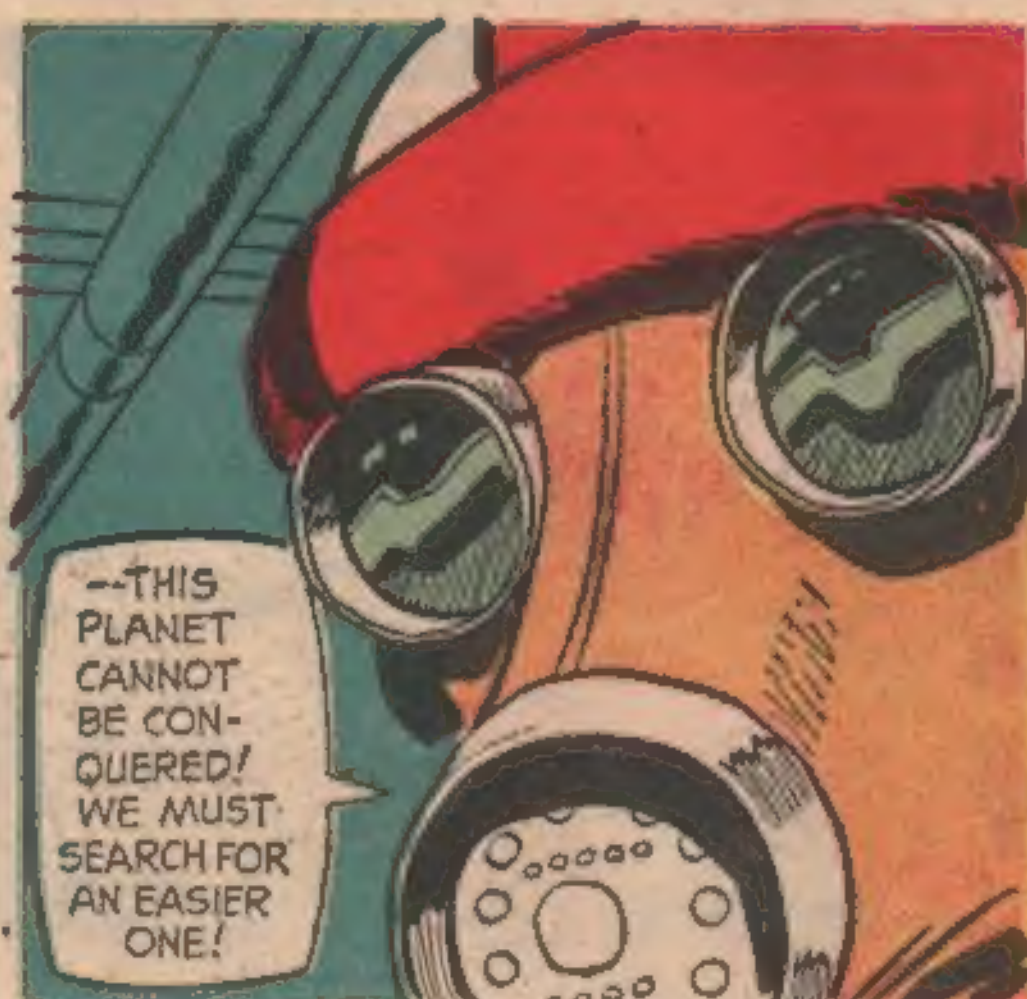
LATER, IN THE LARGER  
SPACESHIP MILES  
ABOVE THE EARTH!

--WE FIND THIS  
CREATURE "MAN"  
UNBEATABLE!

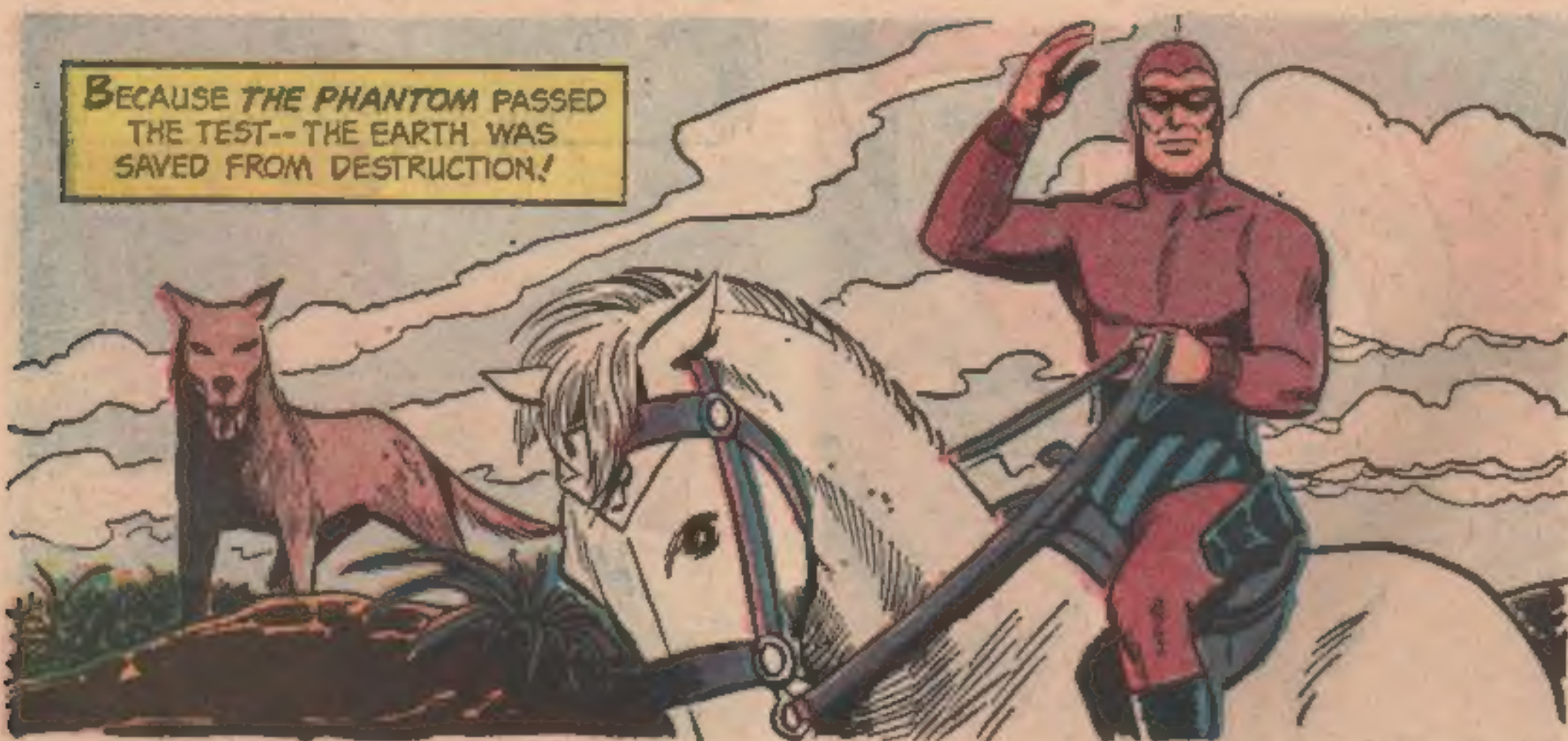
HE OUT-SHOT US AND  
OUT-FOUGHT US--HE  
FEARS *NOTHING*! ALL  
MEN MUST BE THE SAME!



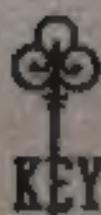
WE SAW HIM  
DEFEAT A MEAT-  
EATER OF HIS  
OWN WORLD  
*BAREHANDED!*  
--THEN HE  
DESTROYED  
A MONSTER  
FROM *OUR*  
WORLD!



--THIS  
PLANET  
CANNOT  
BE CON-  
QUERED!  
WE MUST  
SEARCH FOR  
AN EASIER  
ONE!



BECAUSE *THE PHANTOM* PASSED  
THE TEST-- THE EARTH WAS  
SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION!



## KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

# WILD ANIMALS of AFRICA

NUMBER 9

## *The ZEBRA*

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The zebra is a grazing animal. Zebra herds range the grassy plains and hills of Africa. Their stripes blend with shadows of the grass.



Zebras can run up to 40 mph. Their teeth and sharp hoofs make an excellent defense against wild dogs or other savage predators.



Though zebra herds are wary of humans, they mingle with other peaceful animals. Zebras will often feed with giraffes and ostriches.



When a zebra herd approaches a water hole, an old stallion scouts the terrain for danger. The lion is the zebra's worst enemy.



To rid himself of flies and other parasites the zebra takes frequent dust baths. Well worn "rolling grounds" dot the African plains.

